

Immigration to Israel falls

TEL AVIV (AP) — Immigration in the first half of the year fell by two-thirds from the same period in 1991, and a group aiding Soviet immigrants on Friday blamed the drop on potential newcomers' fears of not getting jobs. Debra Lipson, spokeswoman for the Zionist Forum, said more than 100,000 Jews from the former Soviet Union have completed immigration procedures but have delayed coming because they hear at home about Israel's economic problems. "The primary reason for the depressed immigration from the former Soviet Union is the unemployment crisis in Israel," she said. Israel's unemployment rate is 11.5 per cent, but Ms. Lipson said the rate among new Russian immigrants is about 40 per cent. Jews from the former Soviet republics have made up the vast majority of the wave of more than 400,000 immigrants to Israel since mid-1989. But the numbers have steadily dropped since hitting a peak in 1990.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي

4-year-old shot dead in Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers killed a four-year-old Palestinian boy when they opened fire at a car in the occupied Gaza Strip, the army and Palestinians said on Saturday. An army spokesman said soldiers in Khan Yunis on Friday afternoon had thought wanted Palestinians were in a car that turned into a side street instead of stopping at a roadblock. "Soldiers at the roadblock... fired into the air several times. When the car didn't stop they shot several times at the car's tyres," the spokesman said. Palestinians said the gunfire killed four-year-old Naim Abu Amouna who was in the vehicle with his father. They said the boy's father had avoided the roadblock because he would be fined for not carrying a driver's license and car insurance papers.

Volume 17 Number 5062

AMMAN SUNDAY, JULY 26, 1992, MUHAREM 25, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Arabs endorse continued peace talks, urge Israel to show its seriousness

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Arab foreign ministers endorsed a new round of Middle East peace talks on Saturday but said they saw no substantial change in the policies of the new Israeli government of Yitzhak Rabin. The ministers of Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the head of foreign relations at the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) made the announcement after two days of talks in Damascus. "The Arab parties affirm their support for the peace process and their readiness to resume the bilateral talks as soon as possible," Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa told a news conference. However, he said the ministers "found that the new Israeli government has not so far, despite the change of tone and style, expressed its commitment for establishing a just, comprehensive and permanent peace in the region."

demands which were rejected by former hardline Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. Sources at the meeting said the ministers decided to leave it to the United States, the sponsor of the peace talks, to decide on the time and venue for the next session. The meeting reiterated that the Arabs will attend the sixth round of bilateral talks, irrespective of the perceived "ambiguity" in the stands of Mr. Rabin. The statement wrapped up a two-day meeting which convened Friday to evaluate U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's latest trip to the region and ensure tighter Arab coordination. Mr. Baker met with Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian, Syrian, Lebanese, Egyptian and Saudi officials during his trip which ended Friday. "The new Israeli government has not expressed yet — despite the relative change in tone and style — its commitment to the basic principles of comprehensive and just peace in the region," said the statement. That was a reiteration of the Arabs' complaint that Mr. Rabin, like his hardline predecessor Yit-

zhak Shamir, has not publicly endorsed the principle of trading land in return for peace with the Arabs. The statement said the participants have been informed that Mr. Rabin's government planned to "distance itself from the policy of procrastination and obstruction followed by the former Israeli government." But, it added, the Arabs "expect evidence of that in the sixth round of talks." Mr. Baker said in Manila on Saturday the United States would like to see the peace talks resume in Washington on Aug. 10. Mr. Rabin has said he wants to revitalise the peace talks, but Mr. Sharaa said on Friday the ministers had agreed his announcement of a partial freeze on building new Jewish settlements in the occupied territories did not go far enough. The heads of the Syrian, Lebanese, Jordanian and Palestinian teams to the Middle East talks attended the Damascus meeting. The Palestinian delegation led by Haider Abdul Shafi sat behind

Baker suggests bilaterals in Washington on Aug. 10

MANILA (Agencies) — Putting Mideast peace talks on a fast track, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said Saturday he would like Arab and Israeli negotiators to begin anew Aug. 10 in Washington. In Rome, the Italian Foreign Ministry said Mr. Baker had told Italy that the next round of Middle East peace talks will be held in Washington and not Rome. A statement said Mr. Baker, who coded a tour of the Middle East on Friday, told Foreign Minister Vincenzo Scotti that there had emerged a willingness to "put a more intense rhythm on the talks" with a "more direct involvement of the co-sponsors." The United States and Russia are co-sponsoring the talks. "In light of such an evolution, the message from Mr. Baker to Mr. Scotti said both sides felt it was opportune to meet in Washington to resume the negotiations," the statement said. Mr. Baker said he hoped Rome would be able to be used in the future as a venue for either bilateral or multilateral talks. Mr. Baker, arriving in Manila for a meeting of the association of southeast Asian nations, said at a news conference that not all the parties had accepted the starting date. But he said the United States "would wholeheartedly endorse" it. Four rounds of peace talks

have been held, the last ending in late April in Washington. Mr. Baker's call for restarting negotiations in just 16 days is likely to smooth over whatever differences on a starting time might remain. The talks were supposed to reopen in Rome at an unspecified date. But recently elected Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin went along with the Arab preference for Washington. Mr. Rabin's moves to restrict the construction of settlements for Jews in the occupied territories also pleased the Bush administration. The payoff is likely to be an election-year decision by President George Bush to grant Israel guarantees for \$10 billion in commercial bank loans to help absorb a tidal wave of immigrants. Mr. Baker indicated that Mr. Rabin, who is expected to visit Mr. Bush in Kennebunkport, Maine, next month, had told him of other, still-unannounced measures to drastically scale down settlement activity. "All the parties would like the discussions resumed at the earliest opportunity," Mr. Baker said. "The exact date and location is not agreed to by all the parties." But he then endorsed Aug. 10 as the starting date and Washington as the site.



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday receives Indonesian Trade Minister Arifin Siregar (Petra photo)

Jordan invited to NAM summit

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Saturday received an official invitation to attend a summit of the Non-Aligned Movement to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, in September. The invitation was contained in a message delivered to His Majesty King Hussein by an Indonesian minister and president-

Anbari says progress made towards ending Iraq crisis

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Iraq's U.N. ambassador, Abdul Amir Al Anbari, said on Saturday he had achieved progress with U.N. officials on allowing weapons inspectors into Baghdad's agriculture ministry but a deal was not yet finalised. A U.N. spokeswoman said the meeting between Mr. Anbari and Mr. Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. special commission in charge of scrapping Iraq's war machine, would continue over a working lunch. Mr. Anbari told reporters after a two-hour session with Mr. Ekeus: "We have not finalised anything but we will resume our discussions." "We are talking about the modalities and we are seeing eye to eye on many things," he said. "A few things need to be finalised." "I hope one more session and

everything will be over," he added. Modalities is the term used for how the ministry, suspected of containing documents on ballistic missiles and other weapons, would be inspected. Mr. Anbari in his brief remarks to reporters appeared less euphoric than before he went to his meeting with Mr. Ekeus. He said at that time, "I believe we have reached an agreement." Mr. Ekeus has been holding talks with Mr. Anbari over the last two days in an effort to resolve the impasse which has led to veiled threats of military action from the United States, Britain and France. His weapons inspectors had been conducting a vigil in front of the ministry since July 5, suspecting that it contained documentation of ballistic missiles and other weapons programmes.

On Friday, Mr. Ekeus said five members of the seven-man team had left Baghdad for Bahrain because Iraq was no longer able to guarantee their safety and they needed a rest. Two others remained behind while another 65 conducted inspections elsewhere in the country. President George Bush, meanwhile, was meeting with his top military aides to assess Iraq's defiance of U.N. sanctions and to decide on steps to end the international standoff. Among those present were Vice-President Dan Quayle, Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Colin Powell, National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft and Robert Gates, director of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Government takes control of Geagea's main base

BEIRUT (AP) — The Lebanese army on Saturday tightened the grip on the rightist Christian Lebanese Forces militia and peacefully moved into its command headquarters in east Beirut. The move followed a government decision early in the week to regain control of government buildings controlled by rival militias during the 1975-1990 civil war. A tank-led force sealed off the seaside Karantina district, which housed the Christian militia's war council headquarters, at 3 a.m. (1000 GMT) without resistance, a militia source said. The source said Lebanese Forces commander Samir Geagea and his wife, Sirida, were in the compound when the army moved in. The war council is part of the government-run Karantina Hospital, which specialises in respiratory diseases. The source said Mr. Geagea and his wife remained after army troops moved in. "Geagea had decided to turn over the building to the army. His bodyguards had orders not to confront the army," the source said. He said Mr. Geagea might move to Ghadras, north of Beirut, where the Lebanese Forces owns a fortified compound. The army command withheld comment on the development, but police said no violence was reported in the Karantina district as the 100-strong army force moved in. There were no reports of arrests. A government statement said the Shiite Muslim Amal militia, the Druze-Progressive Socialist Party and the fundamentalist Shiite Islamic Amal militia also had peacefully turned over government buildings they had controlled in south Beirut, the Shouf mountains southeast of the capital and the eastern Bekaa Valley. Army troops on Friday moved into the studios of the Lebanese Forces-run Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation (LBC) television station in the Christian town of Joumieh north of Beirut. The four-storey twin-building, originally owned by the Education Ministry, was controlled by the LBC in 1985. The LBC said it was moving its equipment, studios and staff to another building it owns north of Beirut. "We welcome the government decision to regain control of its buildings and facilities throughout Lebanon," the LBC said in a statement.

House panel recommends three ex-ministers be tried for graft

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — A special panel of the Lower House of Parliament, which has been investigating corruption cases in Jordan in the pre-democracy days, has recommended that the House indict three former senior officials, including a prime minister, on charges of complicity in the misuse of government funds. The recommendation of the panel, called the Investigations Committee, has to be ratified by a two-thirds majority of the 80-member House before the three may be referred to trial by a special court chaired by the speaker of the Upper House (Senate). A date has been set for Monday to discuss the committee's recommendation and vote on it. If passed by the House, the case will be the first corruption case to go to the special court, which is known as the Higher Council, in the aftermath of results reached in 1990 of investigations by the prosecutor-general. Those investigations implicated at least seven former ministers in various cases of corruption and

misuse of public funds. "The Investigations Committee recommends that (names of the three officials) be indicted in the Al Jafr Al Azraq highway project," the committee's recommendation said, according to a member of the group, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity. Besides the former prime minister, the three officials in question include a former minister of public works and an ex-minister of finance. According to the Jordanian Constitution, ministers (former as well as current) are tried by the Higher Council, which, besides being chaired by the speaker of Senate, includes five judges and three senators. According to Article 56 of the Constitution, "the Lower House of Parliament has the right to accuse ministers but indictment needs a two-thirds majority of the members of the House of Parliament."

"We made our recommendation based on the evidence presented to us and we found enough information to support our decision, including a previous indictment by the prosecutor-general of one of the three officials in this case," the committee members told the Jordan Times. The prosecutor-general said in a report in July 1990 that the former public works minister had disregarded the recommendations of several technical committees, including the consultancy firm which had carried out a feasibility study, and recommended to the prime minister that a contract to build a highway linking Al Azraq with Al Jafr be awarded to a combination of Indian companies at a cost of JD35,916,159 in 1987. According to the prosecutor-general's report at the time, the minister's recommendation that the road be of reinforced cement, despite the fact that Jordan had not been used to maintaining cement roads, cost the treasury a loss of as much as JD20 million in light of parallel offers for asphalt roads. Furthermore, the report by the prosecutor-general, which was presented to the House, said the project was not awarded after a tendering process, and there was no mention of any parallel offer. However, the report found that

4 killed in Algerian violence

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Four people were killed and 12 injured in clashes between Muslim fundamentalists and security forces in two Algerian towns, a newspaper and the official news agency APS reported on Saturday. Automatic gunfire was heard early on Saturday after a bomb exploded in a phone box in Al Khrouh, 36 kilometres east of Constantine in eastern Algeria, APS reported. It did not say if there were any casualties. Three people, including two women, were killed at Berrouaghia, 73 kilometres south of Algiers, in a clash on Friday after a demonstration organised by supporters of the banned fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). Ten protesters were injured and dozens arrested, the Arab language paper Al Khabar said. The protesters, led by women, chanted fundamentalist slogans as they left the Al Fatah mosque and ignored warning shots fired by the security forces, the paper said. The were protesting against the jailing last week of FIS leaders. APS, quoting police sources, also said that one person died and two were injured in clashes on Friday between Muslim fundamentalists and security forces at Djelfa bordering the Sahara Desert, 240 kilometres south of Algiers. Police fired teargas grenades and warning shots to disperse crowds chanting slogans in favour of the FIS. The crowd responded by placing women and children in the front ranks, Algiers Radio said. The report did not specify whether women or children were among the victims. The clash came a week after unrest broke out in several Algerian cities, leaving at least six people dead, to protest prison terms for seven FIS leaders. The movement's top chieftains, Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, received the stiffest sentences, 12 years for fomenting rebellion during an election campaign in 1991. The immensely popular fundamentalist party had been protesting electoral rules it perceived as biased against it. Subsequent unrest led at least 55 deaths and a four-month state of emergency. When the elections were finally held last December, the front easily won the first round. The military seized power in January, cancelled the second round, banned the party and threw thousands of fundamentalists in detention camps. Armed Islamic bands have since waged a low-level war against the security forces.

U.S. seen confident of progress in peace process ahead of polls

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — An American proposal that Washington host the next round of Arab-Israeli peace talks in early August is widely seen in Amman as a sign of the Bush administration's confidence that agreement on the major points of contention in the Middle East conflict could be reached before the November presidential Elections and to ensure that the man who launched the process remain close to the negotiations. Parallel to the actual negotiations, consideration is also given to an idea for a meeting of Arab and Israeli foreign ministers in Washington to give a new momentum to the peace process, according to Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. "It's correct that there's some thought being given to this," Mr. Peres told Israel Television last week without giving details. Reports from Cairo also indicated that an Arab-Israeli foreign ministers' meeting could be in the works. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker suggested Washington as the venue for the next round of bilateral talks to Arab negotiators last week against the backdrop of a series of conciliatory gestures

made by the new Labour-led government in Israel and his own latest peace mission to the Middle East. Arab and U.S. officials have confirmed that the idea was raised by the U.S. secretary and it was to be discussed at this week's meeting in Damascus of the foreign ministers of Jordan, Syria and Lebanon and the head of the political department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Reports from Damascus included that the meeting decided to leave it to the U.S. to finalise the venue and date for the bilaterals. No comment was available on the suggestion for an Arab-Israeli meeting at ministerial level. In Manila on Saturday, Mr. Baker said he had also suggested Aug. 10 as the date for the next round of bilaterals. Dr. Haider Abdul Shafi, chief Palestinian delegate to the peace talks, told Jordan Television Thursday that the Palestinians would not mind having Washington as the venue for the immediate next round of the talks in early August before moving to Rome. This falls in line with reports that the Italians have said that Rome would be able to host the event only in late August or early September in view of the

needed preparations. Dr. Abdul Shafi said he expected that the Damascus meeting would endorse the proposal for one round of talks in Washington. However, it remained unclear what the position would be if the negotiations were to be on a continuous basis as suggested by Arabs as well as Israelis. Italy's new ambassador to Jordan, Romualdo Bettini, said he was "informally" told that the Rome talks could be held in late August or early September, but he was not aware of any definite plans or dates. The Italian foreign minister is scheduled to visit the Middle East, including Syria and Israel, in the first week of August. According to a senior Jordanian official, "the venue for the talks is no longer important since the (political) climate has changed and there are signs that progress could be made in the peace process." An Israeli political source was quoted by the Associated Press as saying Friday that the Jewish state saw no reason to move the next round from Rome to Washington. The source said he was unaware of any proposal to move the

Barcelona Olympics begin

BARCELONA (AP) — Bird people flew around the flower people and red, blue and yellow stick figures made a colourful opening to the games of the XXV Olympiad on Saturday, officially starting the Olympics. Planes flew low over the Olympic Stadium on the Montjuic Hill leaving trails of red, green, black and yellow smoke while performers on the field added their touch with canisters of red smoke. King Juan Carlos arrived and watched the opening ceremonies from the stands, and later declared the games officially open. This city of 1.7 million tried for 72 years to host the games, and held nothing back when the games finally opened at a stadium optimistically built 60 years ago for that purpose. A chant of "Hola Hola Hola" ("Hello Hello Hello") went up shortly after the start of the ceremonies, which included a white blimp with the dog mascot Cobi. Rows of white-clad dancers formed the Olympic rings and performed the 1,000-year-old dance of Catalan, the Sardana. Catalan is an autonomous region of Spain with Barcelona as its capital. Organisers arranged the first race of the games between a towering, mechanised berycles, the hero of Greek mythology, and some lumbering mortals. Hercules wins, as he did at the first Olympics he organised around 736 B.C., as the legend goes. That was to be the centerpiece of the lavish, three-hour opening ceremony combining legend, history and surrealism into a gaudy show reflecting the spirit of this ancient-modern city. Singers, acrobats, gymnasts, jets, helicopters, cute kids and sexy high-fashion models all were on hand, along with a flamenco dancer in purple shoes who ended her performance by running down the steep steps from the stage and riding off on a horse with her lover.

Jordan urges diplomatic solution to Iraq stalemate

By Jamal Halaby
The Associated Press
AMMAN — Jordan called Saturday for a diplomatic solution to the standoff between Baghdad and the United Nations. "Jordan is against any military escalations or confrontations and our position has not changed since the beginning of the Gulf crisis," Information Minister Mahmoud Sharif said. After Iraq's Aug. 2, 1990 invasion of Kuwait, Jordan tried to mediate a diplomatic solution and opposed the military option advocated by the United States and its allies. Jordan's position coupled with vast popular support in the Kingdom for Iraq's defiance of the West painted Jordan as pro-Saddam Hussein. "We are advocates of a quiet and balanced dialogue," Mr. Sharif told the Associated Press. "What is needed now is a calm political solution to the conflict." "We have not heard before of a war being launched, where innocent children women and men get killed for the sake of only securing a ministry," Mr. Sharif said. He said that the Jordanian cabinet has not yet discussed the development, and was awaiting Baghdad's response to the world body on a compromise proposal to defuse the conflict over U.N. weapons inspectors' access to records. Saudi Arabia's ambassador to London also favoured continued negotiations but said his country would do its part to help the allies in event of an allied military strike against Iraq. "I don't think diplomacy should ever be given up on. This is giving way to despair. Even

when nations engage in war, they continue diplomacy," Ambassador Ghazi Al Ghozbi said in a television interview Friday night in Britain. "Right now, all the signals coming from New York where all the action is, do not indicate that we are at the last hour or that there is a specific deadline and I don't think it is wise at this point to enforce such a deadline," he said. However, Mr. Ghozbi said: "Nobody has said that war is inevitable, but if war comes, or if a military strike comes, Saudi Arabia will do its part this time around as it did it the first time." Most of the pro-government media in the Gulf has played up the reports of imminent strike on Iraq but refrained from much comment, habitual when they are not in favour. Among those who did comment, the Abu Dhabi government-owned Al Ittihad blasted the Iraqi regime "for pushing (Iraq) into a situation they can no longer bear." In Saudi Arabia, the papers are directed criticism to the Iraqi government alone, with evident sympathy for the Iraqi nation running through. The most acid comment came understandably from Kuwait. Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah issued a statement Friday saying the Kuwaiti government appreciated the "decisive stand of the international community in a bid to force the Iraqi regime to abide fully with all the U.N. resolutions." Newspaper editorials echoed these remarks, with Kuwaitis in general supporting any military action that would weaken the Iraqi regime.

Opening New Clinic

Dr. Emad Al Hanbali

D.D.S., M.Sc., London (U.K.)
Former specialist in Prosthetic Dentistry
The Royal Medical Services

Jabal Al Hussein, Firas Circle
Tel. Clinics: 650493, Res. 821554
P.O. Box: 140640

U.N. chief proposes relief and peacekeeping throughout Somalia

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali on Friday proposed a massive relief programme for Somalia, including an aid airlift, the addition of peacekeeping forces and political reconciliation attempts.

The secretary-general, in a report to the Security Council, said the country was threatened with mass starvation because of tribal and clan warfare and lack of government.

He said he would dispatch a technical team to Somalia as soon as possible to study the feasibility of expanding U.N. operations into four regions: Berbera in the northwest, Bosaso in the northeast, Mogadishu in the central region and Kismayo in the south.

In a separate statement he warned against introducing newly printed Somalia currency notes, which had been ordered by the old regime and were being circulated north of Mogadishu.

"Given the unstable situation prevailing in Somalia today and in particular the increasing tension in Mogadishu, the circulation of this currency might become the cause of renewed open hostilities," he said. He did not assign blame but said the currency should be withdrawn.

On Thursday he admonished the Security Council for trying to

expand U.N. peacekeeping in Somalia and said Somalia was equally in need of help and had received far less. The council has approved 15,600 peacekeepers for Yugoslavia and an airlift for Sarajevo.

About 1.5 million Somalis are in danger of starving in the next few weeks and another 4.5 million need assistance, according to Mohammad Sahnoun, the U.N. special representative for Somalia.

The Security Council has approved in principle a 500-man armed infantry force to safeguard shipments of food and humanitarian supplies in and around Mogadishu from its port. The soldiers have yet to be deployed. Fifty ceasefire observers for Mogadishu are being deployed and the 500 troops are expected to be deployed later.

The secretary-general's proposal must be approved by the Security Council. It was not known when the council would consider his report.

"U.N. efforts need to be enlarged so that it can help bring about an effective ceasefire throughout the country, while at the same time pressing forward with parallel efforts to promote national reconciliation," Dr. Ghali wrote.

In each zone a consolidated

U.N. operation would carry out four major tasks: Humanitarian activities, emergency relief and rehabilitation; ceasefire monitoring and containment of potential conflicts; security, demobilisation and disarmament of armed factions and national reconciliation through conciliation and mediation.

An airlift is needed, he said, because the most destitute people live in the interior and do not have access to ports.

"The mounting of an urgent airlift operation may be the only way to reach those areas and should be undertaken as soon as possible," he said, appealing for short landing and take-off aircraft.

Dr. Ghali said this technical team would examine the feasibility of an arms-for-food exchange programme. They would also investigate how to adequately arm and equip U.N. personnel, whether U.N. security forces need to escort and protect humanitarian activities and personnel, and whether the U.N. will play a role in helping reestablish local police forces.

The U.N. chief called the security situation in Mogadishu precarious. Looting and banditry are widespread problems and attacks on U.N. and other personnel have increased recently.

Rebels step up attacks on Juba

PAGERI, Sudan (R) — Sudanese rebels are stepping up their onslaught on government forces besieged in the southern capital Juba, guerrilla officers say.

"The fighting going on is very fierce," rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) commander Kwot told Reuters on Friday in Pageri, where scores of young guerrillas were being mustered and trucked 100 kilometres north to Juba.

SPLA officers said they were shelling the airport, which had been put out of action, and had overrun outlying garrisons in an attack from the southwest.

"The government can no longer reinforce Juba by air but they are trying to bring in troops from other garrisons by land," one said.

Khartoum's military government has not commented on reports of the fighting in Juba, which the SPLA says has been escalating since the rainy season started at the beginning of July.

Political analysts said the SPLA was pouring troops into the attack, dubbed "Operation Jungle Storm" by the rebels, in a bid to win back credibility and territory after losing 14 towns and villages to the government army since March.

The SPLA has been fighting since 1983 against what it sees as the Arabised north's domination of the mainly black south.

It has been weakened by a factional split and the loss of support from former Ethiopian strongman Mengistu Haile Mariam.

The war and consequent famine have killed 500,000 people and displaced a further 4.5 million Southerners, say aid workers.

The rebels said they had damaged a key bridge over the river Nile, which Juba straddles, and that this would prevent the movement of government tanks and mechanised units.

Last week, government forces entered the SPLA's headquarters in Torit, 110 kilometres southeast of Juba, but rebels forced a quick counter-attack and said they held half the town.

A government jet fighter and a helicopter transporting supplies to the isolated garrison in Torit were shot down by SPLA surface-to-air missiles on Tuesday, the rebels said.

The SPLA is also attacking government convoys supplying the newly captured towns to wear down Khartoum's isolated troops.

Turkey asserts Denktash has conceded enough land

ANKARA (R) — Turkey has told the five permanent U.N. Security Council members they should accept territorial concessions offered by Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash.

"The Turkish-Cypriot side has made a big step forward on the land issue," Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin said in a letter to the five, a ministry statement received on Saturday said.

"We see this as a constructive and meaningful step and we think the Security Council should be satisfied with it."

Mr. Cetin said it was now the turn of Greek Cypriots to make concessions at U.N.-led talks under way in New York aimed at reuniting the island divided since the 1974 Turkish invasion.

"In response to this, we expect them (the Security Council) to demand that the Greek Cypriots meet the interests of Turkish Cypriots in matters like displaced people as well as security and constitutional regulations," Mr. Cetin's letter said.

The five permanent members met Mr. Denktash on Friday to press him to agree to U.N. proposals for resolving the Cyprus problem.

The meeting followed a briefing which Secretary-General Boutros Ghali gave on Thursday to the representatives of the United States, Britain, China, France and Russia which Britain's Sir David Hannay described as "rather disturbing."

Mr. Denktash said in New York that he had proposed that his community retain more than 29 per cent of the island.

He also presented a new map of the nation.

The five permanent Security Council members — the United States, Britain, China, France, and Russia — later met Mr. Denktash privately and pressed for a major concession, diplomats said.

The daily U.N. meetings between Mr. Denktash and Cypriot President George Vassiliou, which are now in recess, have been described as stalled by diplomats.

Mr. Denktash said he had proposed that the Greek Cypriot community retain "29 per cent plus" of the island, down from the current 35 per cent that it currently controls.

Dr. Ghali has proposed 27 to 28 per cent.

Mr. Denktash said that in the 1980s the U.S. State Department and then Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar promised that the Turkish Cypriot community would never be asked to settle for less than 29 per cent.

However, while the percentage differences were small, the territory in the maps proposed by the United Nations and the Turkish Cypriots are quite different.

Details were not known, but Mr. Denktash's map retained Turkish Cypriot control of the town of Morphou in the west.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Former Lebanese president buried

ZGHORTA, Lebanon (AP) — Former President Suleiman Franjeh was buried in north Lebanon Saturday, two days after he died at the American University Hospital in Beirut at age 82. President Elias Hrawi, a Maronite Catholic like Mr. Franjeh, attended the mass at the town of Zghorta, the Franjeh clan's winter home, and led the funeral to nearby Eshden where Mr. Franjeh was buried. The Franjehs spend the summer at Eshden, 10 kilometres west of Zghorta. Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam also took part in the funeral. Mr. Franjeh, prime minister from 1972-76, was a traditional ally of Syria. Patriarch Nasrallah Steir, head of the Maronite church, presided over the funeral service at Zghorta's cathedral. Mr. Franjeh's coffin, draped in the tri-coloured Lebanese flag, was carried on shoulders along the crowded road from the cathedral. Hundreds of black limousines waited for the drive to Eshden. Women dressed in black ululated in traditional mourning and threw white roses at the coffin as the funeral proceeded slowly through the crowded street. Mr. Franjeh is survived by a son and three daughters.

Maldives commends U.S. on Mideast

COLOMBO (R) — Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom has praised the United States for its efforts towards Middle East peace, a statement from the Maldivian high commission (embassy) in Colombo said on Saturday. Mr. Gayoom told visiting U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on Friday he was very pleased "with the important part and efforts of the American government," the statement said. Mr. Gayoom told Mr. Baker the realisation of the rights of the Palestinian people was his country's main concern and added he was happy about the flexibility of the new Israeli government. Mr. Baker stopped off in the Maldives on his way from Saudi Arabia to the Philippines for a meeting between foreign ministers of the association of South-East Asian Nations and their major trading partners. He is the highest-ranking U.S. official to have visited the Maldives.

Greece protests demolition of church

ATHENS (AP) — Greece on Friday ordered its ambassador in Israel to express a "strong protest" over the demolition of a Greek Orthodox Church on Jerusalem's Mount of Olives. The protest "demands the immediate restoration of the harmed moral and religious sentiment of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem," Foreign Ministry spokesman Dimitris Avramopoulos said. The Jerusalem municipality on Thursday demolished two buildings under construction on the Mount of Olives in East Jerusalem, saying they did not have the necessary permits. The Greek Orthodox Patriarchate in Jerusalem said one of the buildings was going to be a church. The Mount of Olives is the site of many churches, as Christians believe that Jesus visited it to weep over Jerusalem's lack of faith. "The whole procedure, regardless of the arguments of the mayor of Jerusalem, which led to demolition of the sacred shrine, constitutes an illegal act," the Foreign Ministry spokesman said. "This does anything but help the present positive climate in Greek-Israeli relations and we would like to believe that it is not backed by the Israeli government," he added. The director of the patriarchate, Bishop Alexis, confirmed the church had not received a building permit but complained that it had waited four years after applying for one.

Arabyat stresses support of Bosnia

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabyat received Saturday Mr. Salem Shabets, an envoy for the president of the Bosnia-Herzegovina, and an accompanying delegation. Dr. Arabyat was briefed by the envoy on the suffering of the Bosnian people and atrocities committed against them for ethnic and religious reasons. Dr. Arabyat stressed to the delegation Jordan's principled stand supporting the Bosnian people's right to self-determination and voiced condemnation of all inhuman practices committed against unarmed civilians.

Seychelles denies Libyan accreditation

VICTORIA (R) — The Seychelles government, under pressure from the United States, declined on Saturday to accredit Libyan diplomats to Victoria in order to keep up pressure on Tripoli over the 1988 Lockerbie bombing. "The Seychelles government is not in a position to grant diplomatic accreditation to Libyan officials at this point in view of the embargo suggested by the U.N. Security Council," a statement from the Foreign Relations Ministry said. "The embassy shall remain closed," the statement added. A Libyan delegation headed by Fathi Gebri of the ministry of state for foreign affairs arrived on this Indian Ocean archipelago two weeks ago to discuss the reopening of its embassy closed in 1984 on Economic grounds. U.S. Charge d'Affaires Sh. ve Mallot told Reuters on Thursday he conveyed Washington's over the reopening of the Libyan embassy at a meeting with Seychelles Foreign Relations Minister Danielle de St. Jorre. Mr. Mallot said the United States wanted to keep pressure on Libya over the bombing of a Pan Am airliner over the Scottish town of Lockerbie. The U.N. Security Council demands the surrender by Libya of two men accused of bombing the plane. U.N. sanctions imposed on Libya to pressure it into compliance include limitations on diplomatic representation.

Supreme Iraqi Shiite leader III

NICOSIA (AP) — The aging supreme spiritual guide of the world's 200 million Shiite Muslims has undergone surgery in Baghdad and a peace-maker was implanted in his chest, his son said Friday. Grand Ayatollah Abolqasem Khoi, 93, was improving after Thursday's operation, Youssef Khoi said in a telephone interview from London. He said he was in touch with his father's physicians in Baghdad. The younger Khoi said his father had no record of heart trouble, but that his health in general has been frail since the youngest of his sons, Ibrahim, along with a number of other family members were arrested by government forces last year. The arrests in the holy city of Najaf, where Ayatollah Khoi lives, and nearby Karbala were part of Baghdad's campaign to crush a rebellion that followed the Gulf war. Other relatives also in exile said the family requested permission to take Ayatollah Khoi abroad for treatment after his hospitalisation earlier in the week. But the government declined. The younger Khoi refused to comment on these allegations.

Iraqi papers defiant in face of threats

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraqi newspapers were defiant in face of military threats Saturday after reports that officials in Baghdad might compromise in their confrontation with the U.N. Security Council.

"The language of threats which is being escalated by the imperialist circles cannot influence our national positions and independent decision-making," the government daily Al Jomhuriya said.

Iraq's U.N. ambassador, Abdul Amir Al Anhari, said Friday that Baghdad was studying a proposal to end a standoff involving U.N. weapons inspectors who were denied access to a government building earlier this month.

President George Bush called in his national security advisers to a Saturday meeting to discuss Iraq's "across-the-board" defiance of the United Nations.

Mr. Anhari said he expected a reply to the compromise proposal on Saturday and "I got the impression that the reply will be very positive."

There was no official word from Baghdad in the official

media by noon. However, the Iraqi News Agency, monitored in Nicosia, carried excerpts of commentary from Baghdad newspapers.

The army daily Al Qadisiya said Iraq has fully cooperated with the United Nations in all its obligations with Gulf war ceasefire resolutions "although Iraq was aware that all these resolutions were unjust."

It said the U.N. inspection teams were trying to humiliate Iraq and deprive it of its national dignity.

The inspection team denied access to the agriculture ministry in Baghdad on July 5 maintained a vigil outside the building until Wednesday, when it withdrew because of hostile demonstrations and harassment.

Most of the team members left Baghdad on Friday, as Mr. Anhari took to his superiors a proposal that smaller groups enter the building to determine if a full-scale inspection was necessary.

The inspectors believed the

building houses documents and material on Iraq's ballistic, chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programmes, which according to the U.N. resolutions must be rooted out and eliminated.

Al Qadisiya said that "while the U.N. team has left Iraq, the Americans still insist on inspecting the ministry of agriculture building... which gives more evidence to the fact that the issue was not searching for banned materials or documents but rather a new pretext to conspire on Iraq."

"Iraq will hold on to its position of principle and will reject any attempt to undermine its national security and sovereignty," the paper said in a front-page editorial.

Babil said the entire incident was aimed at the president. "America does not want a living example who is honest and bold and could be followed by all patriots," Babil said.

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Swiss continue manhunt

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — Swiss authorities continued their search Saturday for a convicted Lebanese hijacker and three other dangerous criminals who escaped from one of the country's top security prisons.

Police used dogs and helicopters to try to track down the escapees after eyewitnesses reported seeing one of the men in a cafe near the quiet spa town of Yverdon.

Hussein Hariri, who was serving a life prison sentence for hijacking and Air Afrique airliner and killing a French passenger in 1987, broke out of Bochuz prison near the French border Thursday morning.

With him was one of France's most notorious criminals, Jacques Hyver, who escaped from a French jail in 1980 and was subsequently sentenced in Switzerland for holding a banker's family hostage. An Italian kidnapper and Swiss bank robber also fled.

Vaud cantonal (state) police said local residents reported seeing the Italian, 35-year-old Vito Lotrechiano, buying four sandwiches in an Yverdon snack-bar in the early evening.

Police had scaled down the

manhunt and dismantled roadblocks earlier Friday but brought in reinforcements after the sighting.

Hariri was sentenced in 1989 on seven counts, including murders, attempted murder and hostage-taking. He had commandeered and Air Afrique DC-10, on a flight from Brazzaville, Congo, to Paris in July 1987 to press demands for the release of Lebanese and Palestinians held by France, West Germany and Israel. He shot dead a young Frenchman and seriously injured a flight attendant in Geneva, where the plane had stopped for refuelling. He was the lone hijacker.

Andre Valloin, Vaud prison chief, defended security arrangements at the prison, though said a full review had been launched. The convicts overpowered three prison officers and then seized a delivery truck. They smashed the vehicle through the main gates, holding the driver hostage until they were outside to deter action by prison guards. They then commandeered a passing car and managed to loose the police trial near Yverdon.

Iran reverses itself on social liberalisation

By Anwar Faruqi
The Associated Press

NICOSIA — President Hashemi Rafsanjani of Iran, yielding to pressure from the new parliament, has slammed the door on the more liberal social policies he introduced after Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini died.

Iran's "disciplinary forces," the main instruments of a crackdown on what its religious leaders call "social vices," demonstrated their new power by parading in several major cities July 15.

Since then, women who wear makeup or show even a lock of hair in public have been arrested, according to sources in Tehran.

An Iranian housewife in her 30s who arrived in Cyprus on Wednesday said she was stopped in an affluent Tehran suburb for wearing eye shadow. She was let off with a warning, the woman said, but younger, single women were taken away to patrol cars for interrogation. She spoke on condition of anonymity.

Strict enforcement of the Islamic code was relaxed after Ayatollah Khomeini, the revolutionary patriarch, died in June 1989.

The dreaded "Komitets," zealous neighbourhood organisations that maintained law and order throughout Iran, were taken off the streets when Mr. Rafsanjani was elected president a month after Ayatollah Khomeini's death.

They were not disbanded, but their influence waned. The Komitets were renamed disciplinary forces.

Women were still required to cover themselves from head to ankle, with only their faces showing, but some makeup was tolerated and stylish hairdos could peek out from their head scarves.

Such contact between the sexes as holding hands in public was gradually and tacitly allowed.

After a new parliament was elected in April and May, however, things began to change.

Earlier this month, Ayatollah Ali Khomeini, who succeeded Ayatollah Khomeini as spiritual leader, decreed that "social vices" and "cultural corruption" must be stamped out. "Revolutionary values" should not be allowed to weaken, he said.

Since then, the armed forces

and government organisations have pledged to confront "manifestations of the corrupt culture of the West."

Many Iranians questioned, both in Iran and outside, say the crackdown may be temporary.

In some respects, the new parliament is more moderate than the old. Its members, for instance, show more support for Mr. Rafsanjani's efforts to introduce a market economy and open up to the West.

At the same time, they are less tolerant of what they perceive as deviations from basic Islamic values and revolutionary fervor.

The campaign against "social vices" follows violent riots in several cities. Economic hardship caused the unrest, but many legislators blamed Mr. Rafsanjani because he had

case the social rules. In June, nine people were hanged after riots at Mashhad and Shiraz, in northern and central Iran respectively. The government declared that it would crash any further dissent.

"Things are the way they were under Khomeini," a traveller from Tehran said, on condition his name not be used. "The Komitets are out in full force. Their vice squads are at checkpoints and in patrol cars everywhere."

Among the targets are publications that advocated more social liberties and accused the clergy of mismanaging the country. The smashing of windows and other organised attacks on such publications have been described officially as spontaneous public demonstrations.

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In April, the editor and staff of the monthly magazine Farad were arrested for printing a cartoon described as insulting to Ayatollah Khomeini.

It showed a soccer player in shorts, the standard uniform of the sport. Critics said the player's face resembled Ayatollah Khomeini, who should not be depicted wearing casual attire.

Protesters ransacked the magazine's offices. Several senior clerics demanded that the editor and staff be hanged in public "as an Islamic example" to anyone who dared insult Ayatollah and Islam.

Another magazine, Gardoon, was banned because its cover depicted a reclining woman in Islamic garb. Her languid posture was denounced as an "insult to the dignity of Muslim women."

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
12:00 Olympics live
12:30 Michael Vukobrat
13:10 La Chance Aux Chansons
13:30 News French
13:45 Magazine E.M.6
14:00 News in Hebrew
14:30 News in Arabic
15:00 Wings
15:30 Olympics Gymnastics
16:00 News in English
16:30 Olympics summary
17:00 Olympics summary

PRAYER TIMES

06:11 Fajr
06:41 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:42 Dhur
16:23 'Asr
19:43 Maghrib
21:13 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish
Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.
632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622566
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel.
628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
772561.
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751.
Assyrian International Church Tel.
685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932.
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and winds will be northerly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Amman Min./Max. temp.
Agaba 15 / 28
Aqaba 22 / 35
Dahab 13 / 30
Jordan Valley 20 / 34
Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

mon 27, Aqaba 35, Humidity readings:
Amman 52 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Jamal Al-Jarrah 796460
Dr. Abdul Majed Al-Sa'ad 791405
Dr. Farouq Noor 786080
Dr. Mukhlis Hala 819223
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al-Azma pharmacy 637053
Nairoud pharmacy 636772
Al-Salam pharmacy 636770
Yacoub pharmacy 644963
Sulaiman pharmacy 637660

DEBIL
Dr. Ahmad Al-Hayek (-)
Al-Sarraf pharmacy 275325

ZARQA
Dr. Randa Shabab (-)
Khalil pharmacy 984417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 628900
Prison Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information 121
(directory assistance)
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 771111
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-33200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-33200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381322
Khald Maternity, J. Amn. 6425816
Al-Khal Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mallat, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Smelel 641714
Shuraim Hospital 659131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Munster Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 6612717
Al-Ahli, Abdali 661646
Islamic, Al-Muhajir 771013
Al-Badr, J. Amman 7711126
Army, Marha 8916125
Queen Alia Hospital 6224030
Al-Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)83323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)80550
Roo Sina Hospital (09)80732
Al-Hikma Modern Hospital (09)80730

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
(Terminal 1)
06:00 Madras (RJ)
07:20 Damascus (RJ)
08:00 Agaba (RJ)
08:30 Beirut (RJ)
09:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
11:00 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:30 Rome (RJ)
12:00 Vienna (RJ)
12:15 Ankara,

Yemen and Jordan agree on mineral mining project

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's ambassador to Yemen Fakhri Abu Taleb met in Sanaa Saturday with the Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh to mark the end of his tour. They discussed cooperation between Yemen and Jordan at all levels.

The ambassador later said that he carried the president's greetings and best wishes to His Majesty King Hussein, noting that Mr. Saleh has expressed his deep satisfaction over the strong brotherly ties between Jordan and Yemen.

Meanwhile, it was announced here Saturday that the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) has reached agreement with the Mineral Resources Authority in Yemen on a project to train Yemeni and Jordanian personnel on technology related to the ex-

ploration of precious minerals in Yemen and Jordan. It is to be financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

An NRA statement said that agreement was reached with the Arab Mining Company ARMI-ICO and an American consultancy firm to conduct a feasibility study on the project.

According to the deal, work on the feasibility study will determine the areas in Yemen and Jordan with potential for minerals, and there will be programmes with modern technology for training personnel in using these minerals. The deal also provides for establishing laboratories in Yemen and Jordan to conduct tests on samples mined in the countries.

80% of pregnant women receive regular medical care

AMMAN (J.T.) — Statistics available to the Health Ministry indicate that nearly 80 per cent of the total number of pregnant women in Jordan receive regular medical care and attention at ministry-run mother and child care centres. Health Minister Aref Al Bataineh predicts that the rate could reach 95 per cent by the end of this century.

At least 75 per cent of births in the Kingdom are conducted under medical supervision, but the rate is bound to go up in the near future due to the increased numbers of campaigns by the ministry to spread health awareness around the country, said the minister at a seminar on safe motherhood and birth spacing.

He said that the Health Ministry was doing all in its power to underline the importance of caring for mothers in the course of ensuring safe and sound childhood for society.

The participants in the two-day seminar organised by the National Population Committee, in cooperation with the Health Ministry and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), represent the public and private sectors.

Addressing the seminar was Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabari, who noted there has to be a balance between sound population planning and natural resources, to attain sustainable development at all levels. He said that the National Population Committee was formed in Jordan in order to achieve that goal.

Mr. Kabari said that the meeting was part of the committee's efforts to attain coordina-

tion between population and natural and economic development, and that can be done partly through caring for mothers and children's health.

According to the committee's secretary general Nabih Salameh, the human element was the backbone of any development, and caring for the health of mothers and children was a vital ingredient in such development.

The National Population Committee, formed in 1988, is entrusted with the task of coordinating the committee's endeavours with those of the public and private organisations with regard to the implementation of population programmes.

The participants in the seminar discussed a paper on safe motherhood and birth spacing, dealing with causes for maternal mortality, an assessment of the mother and child care services in Jordan, and shortcomings in such services in a number of areas in the Kingdom.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that Her Royal Highness Princess Basma attended part of the first day's sessions during which paper on means of ensuring safe motherhood was reviewed. The Princess also took part in a general discussion over the need for improving and expanding services for mother and child care at all the Kingdom's centres. The participants, Petra, said, underlined the importance for a national programme providing for general health care for mothers and children and for spreading awareness on birth spacing as vital for the country.



Julie Andrews visits NHF

Julie Andrews, actress and goodwill ambassador for the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) visited the Noor Al Husseini Foundation (NHF) Thursday where she was briefed by Queen Noor and NHF president and senior staff on the foundation's development philosophy and long term integrated development projects.

Discussions focused on some of NHF's key projects — the Quality of Life and the Women in Development projects — which have been recognised by U.N. and international organisations as training models for the Middle East region.

Ms. Andrews commended the foundation's efforts in offering development models for improving the quality of life of Jordan's needy families, women and children and expressed UNIFEM's special appreciation of NHF's endeavours for the benefit of women. She also visited NHF's Jordan Design and Trade Center, partly funded by

UNIFEM, which is currently supporting 2,000 craftsmen with product development, technical and management training, and marketing. NHF has been nominated by UNIFEM to plan and execute small enterprise training activities in Jordan on behalf of UNIFEM's new project, "Strengthening Institutions for Enterprise Development for Women."

Ms. Andrews was accompanied by Richard Walden, President of Operation U.S.A., a non-governmental voluntary organisation, that cooperated with Queen Noor in humanitarian relief efforts for Gulf war victims.

In'am Mufti discussed with Mr. Walden the possibility of initiating a prototype programme which will introduce active learning through computers for elementary school children to be implemented in cooperation with Jordan's Ministry of Education.

Through touch and play students learn and get excited about science

By Raghad Azizieh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "Exploring Science" in Amman is an exhibition speaking in a new language to science educators and learners as well as to the general public. The exhibition is based on allowing people, both children and adults, to touch, operate and experience, thus becoming interested and stimulated to learn.

The idea originally sprang from the United States and was first introduced in Britain in 1988. The response the exhibition received was overwhelming, receiving 80,000 visitors, 20,000 of whom are students, according to the organisers.

This popularity was gained by their ability to be mobile and to reach out for remote and less fortunate areas. Wherever they go, they pitch their tent, and assemble their exhibits, and open their doors for visitors.

As part of its cultural activities, the British Council seized the opportunity and contracted the company to build a version suitable for travelling and touring the Middle East. Stephen Pizze, company director, spoke to the Jordan Times about the original idea.

"It is the idea of hands-on exhibits, whereby visitors have to participate and to be involved in order to make them work and it is the visitor's own interpretations of what he has done that triggers the interest and answers questions," he said.

Mr. Pizze added that "it is in short something more than a game but less structured than a lesson or reading a book. Also the factor of convenience, is that visitors come at their leisure adds to the attractions."

Exhibits

The exhibits introduce the visitor to natural phenomena such as water, light, movement, prop-

erties of air etc, which is met in every day life. Mr. Pizze explained: "It puts the person in touch with the phenomenon itself and one feels after operating it that he knows it to an extent that he doesn't need words to describe it. When that person sees it again in life — he recognizes it as you do an old friend."

For example, in order to illustrate sound waves, a large loudspeaker which can be charged by rotating a dial, is positioned underneath a circular tray of water. The loudspeaker sends sound waves through the water and sets the water vibrating. Careful viewing produces some distinct patterns in the water, even "small" fountains of water to leap off the surface. The harmony between sound and waves can almost be touched when one spends some time rotating the dial.

In a darker corner of the exhibition, a number of colourful laser and polarized light exhibits are grouped. On the question of the system of classification of the exhibition, Mr. Pizze explained that exhibits were not connected in any way. He said: "The exhibition is like a magazine and not a journal which tackles one subject. A magazine has lots of interesting things."

The size and durability of the exhibits add to its aim. The relatively larger size allows adults and children alike to operate the exhibits and its durability allows a fair amount of rough handling.

Science and Culture

Mr. Pizze said that despite the

fact that we all live with technology and science, one of the problems in many countries is that science is not considered part of the culture. Science is considered a more serious matter, available only to scientists and it is hard work.

It doesn't have to be like that. Science crosses the boundaries of cultures and speaks an international language," he said.

The strategy to bring up a scientifically orientated generation starts with arousing young students' enthusiasm and their interest. Once this is achieved through experimentation and enjoyment it could be supplemented with more structured materials. This keeps knowledge vivid for longer period of time. Teachers as well as students benefit from direct contact with natural phenomena because it is easier than introducing it to the learner.

Charity

Mr. Pizze said that their company was funded by some educational charities in the United Kingdom. They rent their exhibits to schools and set it up in school halls, allowing them to have their own little miniature science show.

"We also do all the supplementary educational materials to allow teachers to relate their lessons to what the children have seen," he said.

As a result of close cooperation between the Ministry of Education and the British Council, the exhibition is going to move to Irbid after Amman, and then to Karak.

Intellectuals discuss role of women and their contribution to mark Women's Week

AMMAN (Petra) — An intellectual gathering was held Saturday at the University of Jordan as part of the Women's week, organised by the University's faculty of arts. Speakers at the gathering included Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Youssef Al Agha, lawyer Asma Khader, Bassam Al Umoush and Muna Shuqair.

Deputy Agha outlined the rights of women in Islam and the fields of work that suit them.

Ms. Khader spoke about the role of women in Jordanian society, especially in rural and bedouin areas. She stressed that Islam does not oppose the work of women in economic, administrative and social fields.

Dr. Umoush dealt with the role of women in enhancing social security, particularly at a time when social problems have increased as a result of the prevailing economic situation and the increase in population.

He underlined the importance of women's contribution to the developmental process and the role of Palestinian women in the occupied Arab territories in resisting Israeli occupation of their land.

Ms. Shuqair spoke about the role of women in the political life in Jordan. She affirmed that Jordanian women have achieved great accomplishments in the

Jordan steps up efforts to extradite Chalabi, but fugitive banker still elusive

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Authorities are pursuing their efforts to extradite former Petra Bank Chairman Ahmad Chalabi and some of his close associates who have been sentenced to jail in Jordan, informed sources have said.

Prospects seem remote for bringing in the fugitive banker, who has been found guilty of fraud, embezzlement and misuse of bank finances and sentenced to 35 years in prison in April, but Jordan has not given up its efforts, the sources told the Jordan Times.

Officials also affirm that the Jordanian approach to the issue is strictly a judicial affair and has no bearing on the political status of Mr. Chalabi or anyone else whose extradition is sought by the Kingdom.

"Even if he is the hero of the Iraqi opposition, that does not matter," Nasser Judeh of the Jordan Information Bureau in London was quoted as saying recently.

Mr. Chalabi, who is believed to be living in London, is a self-styled leader of Iraqi dissidents who were found guilty was present in Jordan to face the charges and to be imprisoned for two years. All others except two of those tried in absentia were found guilty and given hefty sentences. Thirty others were acquitted.

Mr. Chalabi fled Jordan under mysterious circumstances in August 1990, shortly after the government took over his troubled bank, whose teatacles stretched from dubious foreign exchange



Ahmad Chalabi

concerned countries. He did not name the countries involved except Britain, with which Jordan has an extradition agreement.

Also sought through Interpol are "several" Chalabi associates who have been sentenced to varying jail sentences by the State Security Court in April this year, the source said.

The source confirmed that "not all those sentenced in absentia" were being sought by the authorities. Only one of the defendants who were found guilty was present in Jordan to face the charges and to be imprisoned for two years. All others except two of those tried in absentia were found guilty and given hefty sentences. Thirty others were acquitted.

Mr. Chalabi fled Jordan under mysterious circumstances in August 1990, shortly after the government took over his troubled bank, whose teatacles stretched from dubious foreign exchange

firms to school transportation contracts and supermarkets in what many economists describe as reckless ventures.

Some of Mr. Chalabi's close family members — brothers and cousins as well as confidants — who were also sentenced in absentia, live in London while others are believed to have sought refuge in other European countries and Lebanon.

Jordan has formal as well as informal extradition agreements with some of the countries involved, but "it all depends on the cooperation extended by the host countries and their security forces," said the source.

Mr. Chalabi and other defendants found guilty by the State Security Court have also been fined the equivalent of the amount they were deemed to have embezzled. In Mr. Chalabi's case, the fine imposed by the court is JD46 million, only a fraction of the funds that the treasury had to pump into Petra Bank to keep it afloat from the date of its take-over and the subsequent liquidation orders in April 1990.

Mr. Chalabi, an Iraqi who fled his country in the late 1960s and who founded Petra Bank in Jordan, now describes himself as an international economics expert and has been releasing "facts and figures" about the Iraqi losses in the Gulf war. Mr. Chalabi has also published "plans" to revitalise Iraq in a post-Saddam era, through deals with oil companies, creditor countries and other institutions. He says he also plans to pay for "war reparations" and foreign debts.

JEDCO readies for international trade fairs, but will businessmen participate?

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) preparing to involve Jordan in international fairs to help promote the marketing of national industrial products.

JEDCO officials said that plans have been worked out for Jordan's participation in international fairs to be held in the second half of 1992 in Izmir, Damascus, Tunis, Taiwan and Morocco.

The officials noted that JEDCO arranged for Jordan's participation in the Cairo and Tripoli international fairs, in addition to one held in Chicago, U.S.A. But, they complained that industry and businesses in Jordan failed to give these fairs much attention.

According to these officials, despite advertising in the local media and JEDCO's continual contacts with the Amman Chamber of Industry, the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation, the free zones, the Jordanian Businessmen's Association and others, participation was below the aspired standard.

They said that Jordanian industrial companies did not give due attention to the fairs as they failed to conduct promotion campaigns, to cater to the enquiries of potential buyers and to send representatives to attend the fair to try to conclude export deals with potential merchants and visitors.

Any company participating in an international fair will be required to pay a JD 25 fee while JEDCO undertakes the cost of dispatching samples of products from and to the fair, the officials noted.

JEDCO director told the Jordan Times last month that the corporation's ultimate goal is to help national companies export

more products to the foreign markets. Rima Khalaf Hunaidi said that JEDCO wants to introduce and promote a number of products that the industrial sector has started to produce within the past two years, and to increase the number of products and goods that are being exported at present.

According to JEDCO officials, in the industrial fair held in Khar-toum, JEDCO arranged for \$2 million worth of Jordanian products to be sold directly to Sudanese buyers and the fair was a major success.

Indeed, the international fairs represent a good opportunity for national products to enter foreign markets and for this reason JEDCO is now involved in drawing up

a comprehensive plan to involve Jordan in international industrial fairs to be held around the world in the coming year, according to the officials.

They said that the experience of the previous years would help the corporation to plan wisely and to arrange for successful participation in the 1993 fairs.

JEDCO helps participants to arrange their stay abroad, ship their product samples, and provide the firms with valuable information about international trade answers on queries and prospects for the sale of products.

The officials called on various Jordanian companies to participate in international fairs and to do all they can to promote exports.

Sons, father drown in cesspool

KARAK (J.T.) — Three people have died by drowning in their cesspool in Karak.

The dead were identified as Ibrahim Mahadin and his two sons, according to Civil Defence Department (CDD).

Department officials said that one of the sons had climbed down a ladder lowered into the cesspool to retrieve his identity card which had fallen in to the pit but had fainted into the pool. The father first and then the elder brother tried to rescue the young man but they too fell and drowned, the CDD said.

CDD men were called and rushed to the scene but the three men were found dead when they were pulled out, according to a

CDD spokesman, who added that cesspools are dangerous because many are filled with poisonous gases that can kill instantly.

Meanwhile, a local daily reported that a 16-year-old girl stabbed her 14-year-old brother in the belly and chest and head following a family argument.

The paper said that the incident occurred in Zarqa and the young man is in stable condition, according to hospital officials. The police apprehended the girl and investigations are underway.

Al Ra'i daily reported that a 28-year-old man was hit by the head by a bullet in a suicide attempt. The police said that the incident occurred in Dhihan, south of Amman.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Muscat stock market chief arrives for talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of Muscat Stock Market Mahmood Ben Mohammad Al Jarwani arrived in Amman Saturday on a several-day visit to Jordan. Mr. Jarwani will hold talks with Director General of Amman Financial Market (AFM) Umayya Touqan, who is also president of the Arab stock markets, on fields of cooperation between AFM and the Omani stock market.

Committee to discuss water in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — The water strategy committee of the Lower House of Parliament met Saturday under its chairman Abdul Majed Al Shurideh. The committee asked the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to provide it with a detailed and comprehensive report on the water situation in Jordan and on the ministry's strategy in this regard. The report will later be offered to a full house meeting to be discussed.

King congratulates Maldives

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent Saturday a cable to Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Qayyum to congratulate him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on his country's national day. King Hussein wished Mr. Abdul Qayyum good health and happiness and the people of Maldives further progress and prosperity.

Ministry urges companies to reimburse pilgrims

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs Saturday called on all companies which signed contracts for transporting or housing Jordanian pilgrims to Mecca to return money paid by people who registered for the pilgrimage season but could not leave for Saudi Arabia. The ministry asked these companies to provide its pilgrimage department with documents proving that these companies' clients have either received their full services or retrieved their money back.

QAF receives Swiss assistance

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma received Saturday, in the presence of the Swiss ambassador to Jordan, assistance presented by a Swiss international child organisation to the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF). Sources at the fund said this donation, which includes full-equipped hospital beds and children's clothing, will be distributed to several health centres around the Kingdom, especially hospitals which need new beds. The sources added that the Swiss organisation had chosen QAF to distribute the donation because it is considered a national public institution which has social services centres around the Kingdom.

Public freedom committee convenes

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament's public freedoms and citizens' rights committee held a meeting Saturday under its chairman Ibrahim Khreisat. The committee discussed several issues of concern to citizens.

الزاي Jordan Times

Home delivery

The Jordan Times and its sister Arabic daily Al Ra'i are offering a new home delivery service to different parts of the capital, starting first with the areas of Shmeisani, Abdoun and Umm Utheina.

Those who are interested in having their newspapers delivered to their homes in the morning should contact the Distribution Department, Mr. Samih Abu Hanieh, Extn. 247, at the Jordan Press Foundation between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Full information including names, addresses and telephone numbers will be needed before the delivery service is provided.

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An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975

الصحف الأردنية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

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GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Pieces falling into place

THE STRONG statement read by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa in Damascus yesterday is an indication that the Arab parties to the Middle East peace talks mean business. It also shows that the Arab side takes Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin more seriously than his predecessor, Yitzhak Shamir. The U.S. administration, which yesterday announced the sixth round of talks would resume in Washington on Aug. 10, does also mean business and has a stake in the success of the next round.

While the Bush administration would benefit from a breakthrough in the Washington talks against the backdrop of the U.S. presidential elections, Mr. Rabin, who is due in the U.S. in early August, has a great deal to gain. Mr. Bush wants to be reelected and Mr. Rabin wants to consolidate his power especially by getting the Americans to grant Israel the much-needed \$10 billion in loan guarantees. The Arabs meanwhile want both Israel and the U.S. to understand that any mutual exchange between them will not be on the expense of the Arabs. Thus the Damascus statement reiterated the Arabs' commitment to resume the peace talks as soon as possible based on the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242, 338 and 425. Apprehensive of Mr. Rabin's pronouncement on "security" versus "political" settlements, his intention to split the peace process and his reluctance to commit his government to a land-for-peace settlement, the Arab foreign ministers' statement outlined the Arab understanding of a durable and comprehensive settlement that would leave no point of contention that in the future might serve as a point of explosion. The statement went so far as to envision a region free of all forms of weapons of mass destruction, signalling Syria's willingness to participate in the multilateral track of the negotiations. The statement also called on the co-sponsors of the peace talks to assume a more active role in the process in order to enhance and expedite it. This too is a signal that the Arabs, while not denying any party the right to make political gains, are concerned that such gains would not undermine the process as such.

Now that the Arab position has been spelled out in full it is hoped that the Israeli government would move forward and declare its intentions and plans accordingly. It is also hoped that the U.S. would use this most favourable opportunity to push the process ahead for the benefit of everyone and for the purpose of attaining security and stability in this region.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT IS rather difficult to see how the Arab countries involved in the peace process with Israel can offer any concessions to the Jewish state as demanded by the U.S. administration in exchange for Yitzhak Rabin's declared intention to partly freeze the Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab lands, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday. The paper said that Mr. Rabin's declared intention does not meet the minimum requirements of peace, which should be based on U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 that call for Israel's withdrawal from occupied lands and the return of Arab territories in exchange for peace. It should be declared openly that the Arabs have nothing to give or to offer concessions for since it is Israel which is occupying Arab land and should give it up in compliance with the international legitimacy and the U.N. resolutions, said the daily. Indeed Mr. Rabin's step can only be regarded as a secondary move intended to remove obstacles in the path of peace and a timid gesture towards complying with U.N. resolutions which had condemned Israel's settlement programmes and called for Israeli forces pull out from Arab land, the paper continued. No Arab country can, under any circumstances, give up legitimate rights in exchange for such a lame step on the part of Mr. Rabin and therefore Washington should not wait for any further concessions from the Arab side, the paper stressed. It said that the ball is still in Israel's court until it totally gives up its programmes for settling Jewish immigrants in Arab land occupied since 1967 and recognises the rights of the Palestinian people in their own homeland.

DESPITE THE fact no one is convinced that the Ministry of Agriculture building in Baghdad contains elements endangering world peace, as the United States and its allies are claiming, the western threats of launching yet another aggression on Iraq cannot be taken lightly, according to a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday. Mahmoud Rimawi said that no one is convinced by the U.S. Secretary of state's claims about the Ministry of Agriculture, and his words and threats issued during his visit to Saudi Arabia, were more or less like old cowboy movies which no more attract viewers. The writer said that in the colonial powers' view the ministry building constitutes a danger to the world while the continued Serbian forces shelling of civilian centres in Yugoslavia and Israel's nuclear arsenal and its continued atrocities against the Palestinian people do not cause any danger to mankind. It seems that the new world order is still to be born on the bodies of the Iraqi people and at the expense of the dignity and the future of the Arab Nation, he said. The writer said that the U.S. realises that Iraq is a partner in the Arab-Israeli conflict and all efforts should be made to neutralise that powerful enemy of Israel so that the Jewish state can live in peace at the expense of the Arab Nation and the Palestinian lands and rights. He said that by enforcing Israel's aggressive hand and by committing atrocities against Iraq, the U.S. is planting mines that would endanger the Middle East region for generations to come.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Labour intensive projects — no priority

The Dead Sea Industrial Complex is roughly estimated to cost some \$380 million in capital investment and produce around one billion dollars worth of annual exports, but the project will generate no more than 350 jobs. The cost of creating one job would thus be over one million dollar, compared to an average of \$30,000 per job in other Jordanian investments in general. The question now is whether this extremely capital-intensive project deserves to be given priority, and whether the economic and financial feasibility, once established, is more important and decisive than the established social ineffectiveness from the job creation point of view.

This multiple issue was thrown as a question by the Jordanian minister of labour who, apparently, thought that it presents decision-makers with a tough choice between two contradicting priorities. The state would understandably like to promote labour intensive projects to generate the maximum jobs from a given amount of investment, but is equally keen about having only feasible projects that can support the economy and the treasury, instead of being a burden on both of them.

This extreme case may be a good example of the competing economic and financial considerations normally advocated by

technicians on the one hand, and social considerations stressed by most populist politicians, on the other.

Of course, different people may offer different answers, and viewpoints, but it is worth pointing out at this juncture, that social and economic considerations may look contradictory only on the short term. On longer term, only economically and financially feasible projects can support a healthy economy, capable of serving the desired social objectives. Losing projects will not grow or survive, most likely they will fail and be liquidated, thus not only the jobs will be lost but also the invested capital will vanish.

Successful projects that make money and create surplus can best serve the social objectives of the society now and in the future. Projects that are likely to be in financial trouble fail to achieve the very social objectives that they were created to achieve, such as creating jobs or helping underdeveloped areas.

On the other hand, the jobs that may be generated by the Dead Sea complex, or any successful investment, should not be calculated based only on the payroll of the project concerned. A one billion dollar a year of exports will definitely create thousands of jobs in other sectors of the economy, such as transport, sea port, banks, insurance companies, real estate owners, hotels etc.

The receipt of one billion dollar a year in hard currency may finance hundreds of other projects that in turn create more jobs and a stream of income, let alone the importance of closing the gap between imports and exports and achieving self-sufficiency which is a top priority.

The systems that sacrificed political democracy, freedom of the individual and ownership rights, ostensibly to serve social objectives and fairer distribution of income, failed in securing even bread for their peoples, while the systems that gave priority to efficiency in production enjoyed freedom and democracy, while at the same time achieving a decent standard of living to their working class.

If the private sector is expected to finance the Dead Sea chemical project or take part in its equity, the answer to the question of priority becomes obvious. The private investor has only profits in mind. Social considerations are served only unintentionally as a natural outcome.

It is not a coincidence that the wages and salaries paid by the private sector, which is essentially after profits, are substantially higher than the wages and salaries paid by the public sector, which claims to be after social considerations and fair distribution of income and wealth.

Study sees Palestinian interim self-rule easing tensions

WASHINGTON (USA) — The Middle East peace process and the onset of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations in 1991 offers the prospect of substantive change in the Israeli-Palestinian relations, a major intercultural study released last week concludes.

The report, "Transition to Palestinian Self-Government: Practical Steps Toward Israeli-Palestinian Peace," by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, specifies three areas in which agreement will be vital: The civil-political arena; security; and economic and resource issues.

Following is the text of the executive summary section of the report:

The onset of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations in 1991 has introduced the possibility of mutually agreed substantive changes to decades of bitter Palestinian-Israeli relations. An accord on interim self-rule for Palestinians living on the West Bank and Gaza could greatly alter current relations between the two communities by sharply reducing the potentials for violence and easing the tensions of daily living for Israelis and Palestinians. This report specifies three areas in which agreement will be vital:

— The civil-political arena: governing and administrative institutions and functions need to be turned over gradually to Palestinian control, ensuring the smooth operation of essential services and the establishment of mechanisms of planning by Palestinian authorities that are accountable to the public in the West Bank and Gaza;

— Security: Israel's external and internal security requirements must be met while simultaneously meeting the need to reduce Palestinian insecurity and enabling the governing authority to maintain civil order, these bilateral arrangements must be coupled with the development of a regional security system;

— Economic and resource issues: self-government will require Palestinian responsibility for, and control of, policy and planning as well as daily administration; substantive shifts in economic and resource practices will be required; Israel's needs will be met by joint monitoring bodies and enhancement of Israeli trade and contacts with the Arab world.

Civil and political institutions

At present, all substantive power is in the hands of the military government and its civil administration. Palestinians have little or no say in political and administrative policies and practices that affect their lives; they are prohibited from exercising

meaningful political, press and institutional freedom.

During negotiations, important steps can be taken by the Israelis to remove many of the restrictions on civil, educational and political life. Elections to municipal and village councils could be held as a means to support negotiations and expand the popular base of the anticipated Interim Self-Governing Authority (ISGA). Palestinians and Israelis could expand joint consultations and projects dealing with critical economic, cultural and political issues. From outside the region, the PLO could provide technical support for the negotiating process, and the United States and European Community could encourage the peace process in tangible ways, notably by encouraging Palestinian institution-building and ensuring that foreign donors work directly with Palestinian organisations.

During the specified interim period, Palestinian authority would be derived from the negotiated agreement. The ISGA would take responsibility for normal civil functions, e.g. formulate public policy, levy taxes and regulate finances, control police and local security (in coordination with Israel at the regional level), operate educational, health and other vital services, and exercise joint control over land and water resources. Personal and territorial self-rule are seen as inextricably intertwined; the people are not separate from the land. While current negotiating parameters exclude East Jerusalem from being formally included in the ISGA, it seems important that its Palestinian residents be eligible to work and vote for candidates in the ISGA.

A phased process would remove the current barriers to civil life in the territories and create the structures of Palestinian self-government. Two sets of elections would be needed early in the interim period: to ratify the negotiated agreement and to elect the ISGA.

The executive council of the ISGA with policymaking and financial authority would establish a civil service commission, a special body to revise the legal system, and departments that would conduct the daily operations of the society. Current administrative structures might be incorporated into their frameworks. Some of the current non-governmental organisations such as the coordinating councils for agriculture, education, housing, and industry, would be absorbed into the ISGA administration, whereas others would remain independent, as part of the Palestinian voluntary association network. District level administration (abolished in 1967) would

be reestablished and municipal and village councils reconstituted and elections held. Aid to the ISGA and local authorities from the international community would be especially needed in management, planning and technical fields. Joint research with Israelis designed to facilitate educational and cultural contact and to address outstanding problems such as water and Jerusalem would also be vital during the interim period.

In the long term, the Palestinian sovereign authority (PSA) "would mean either an independent state or a confederation with Jordan. The PSA would have international standing and its own representation in international bodies. The phased return of Palestinians from the diaspora would be arranged and the legal status of those who remain abroad would be regularised in their host countries. The controversial issues of Jerusalem and Israeli settlements would be resolved at this time. In the context of a peace accord and open borders, creative means to share Jerusalem between the Israelis and Palestinians could be devised; Israelis who wish to remain in settlements would have the option to do so under the jurisdiction of the PSA, probably with the status of foreign residents."

External and internal security

Israelis and Palestinians both place strong emphasis on the safety and survival of their communities in the face of external threat and internal violence. Each believes that its security is undermined by the other's beliefs and actions. Their concerns are asymmetrical: Israelis focus primarily on regional security whereas the Palestinians are preoccupied with communal insecurity caused by Israel's military occupation and by their vulnerable status in Arab countries. The mutual security of their needs must be recognised. Moreover, for Israel to consider withdrawing militarily from the occupied territories, its security at the regional level needs to be assured.

During negotiations, Israel's primary emphasis will be with regional security concerns. Bilateral negotiations with Syria, Lebanon and Jordan are a vital component of that process, complemented by multilateral talks on regional arms control and limits on weapons of mass destruction and long-range missiles.

Successful steps in the negotiations would positively affect Israel's approach to security in the territories and enable its military command to consider a gradual but substantial withdrawal from the heart of the West Bank; the occupied territories would remain demilitarised.

Palestinians could act to reduce violence by seeking to stop armed attacks against Israelis or other Palestinians and reaffirming their opposition to terrorism. Palestinian leaders might also declare explicitly that the future Palestinian state would be demilitarised and committed to peaceful relations with its neighbours. Such measures would seek to alleviate the existential fears of Israelis and promote a climate conducive to an accord.

During the interim period vis-a-vis an Israeli-Jordanian security regime, Israeli forces would withdraw on a phased basis from their bases in the centre of the occupied territories and redeploy to sites in the Jordan Valley. Israel would continue to control the bridge and border crossings in Jordan and Egypt. Israel would also continue to maintain and guard its early warning stations on the ridges overlooking the Jordan Valley, its air force would continue to overfly the territories, and its navy would patrol the coast off Gaza. An Israeli-Palestinian-Jordanian commission would monitor security arrangements and handle violations.

The Palestinians ISGA would gradually assume responsibility for internal security in the West Bank and Gaza. A Palestinian police force and court system would be reconstructed and strengthened to maintain order as the Israeli armed forces withdrew. Special Israeli-Palestinian police patrols would be constituted to maintain security on the highways and guard vital installations. Reciprocal security arrangements would be specified to handle potential violence between Palestinians and Israelis, perhaps by establishing a joint crisis monitoring centre. A comprehensive security plan would permit both peoples to travel freely, but would prevent additional Israeli settlement in the territories and the return of Palestinians from exile during the interim period.

In the long term, the linked peace and security accords would be fully implemented, with borders open for trade and tourism. A trilateral security regime for Israel-Palestine-Jordan would consist of full diplomatic relations, a non-aggression pact, mutually agreed security measures along the borders, participation in regional and international arms control agreements, and continued demilitarisation of the Palestinian Sovereign Authority.

Economic and resource issues

The economic relationships between Israel and the occupied territories would be recast to promote mutual benefits. There will be some asymmetries:

Palestinians would gain control over their resources and livelihood. Israel would lose what had seemed to be guaranteed markets and easy access to a large labour pool. Israel would, however, realise new gains with the Arab world in both commerce and potentially increased access to water and electricity.

During the negotiations, Israel could take measures to help promote a constructive political atmosphere by, for example, lifting travel restrictions, stopping tax raids, easing access for Palestinian goods into Israel and abroad, adopting a liberal licensing policy toward businesses, enabling municipalities to engage in planning, reopening banks, restructuring taxes, renewing land registration, and undertaking joint assessments of water use. Palestinians would be able to accelerate their efforts to set up credit institutions, improve technical research and outreach, and coordinate these activities. International agencies would promote market surveys, designs for the ISGA infrastructure, development of technical and managerial skills, and planning for credit institutions.

For its part, Jordan would lift its ban on importing manufactured goods from the West Bank and Gaza, the Gulf states would begin to negotiate the sale of oil to Israel, and regional discussions on marketing and water resource planning would be initiated. These steps would enhance Israel's confidence that it would gain economically from an accord. In the interim phase, Israel would remove barriers that limit Palestinian trade, credit, and population movement. The ISGA would have financial and monetary authority, including the right to levy taxes and negotiate external grants and loans, although fiscal and monetary policy would be coordinated with Israel.

The ISGA would engage in long-term economic planning, particularly to enhance the basic infrastructure and expand housing. Private investors would seek to expand light industries in a wide variety of fields, including pharmaceuticals, clothing, shoemaking, and agriculture and fishing industries. External agencies would provide direct grants for large-scale infrastructure projects for onetime start-up capital for selected businesses, and for pilot projects; loans would be made available through indigenous credit institutions as well as continued technical assistance and training.

Access to natural resources would be essential for the ISGA. A joint Israeli-Palestinian commission would examine land use, and enable the ISGA to have

access to public and absentee land. Initially, a joint board would also handle electricity; the ISGA would progressively gain authority over electricity and groundwater in the occupied territories, with a joint authority to determine mutual needs and regulate the level of pumping in both Israel and the occupied territories.

Regional water plans would be an important component of the bilateral and multilateral accords. The opportunity to increase access to water would serve as one of the inducements for Israel to negotiate security accords with its neighbours. Projects to be given high priority would include the Unity Dam on the Yarmouk's River involving Jordan, Syria and Israel, pipelines for water from the Litani River in Lebanon and from Turkey or Egypt, and a joint Jordan-Israel desalination plant in Eliat/Aqaba.

During the interim period, Israel would begin to purchase oil from the Gulf, as the Arab economic boycott ended. External agencies would have important roles in promoting the regional water projects and encouraging trade ties.

For the long term, the PSA would need to complete large scale infrastructure projects, in part to handle returns from the diaspora. An integrated economic plan would be required for the Jordan Valley, north-south roads would be completed, the Gaza port overhauled, and the Qaladaya airport refurbished for international traffic. Waste water, and desalination projects would be completed. Key economic areas would be enhanced, so that the PSA could serve as a regional centre for tourism, education, medicine, communications, and scientific research. Trade, tariff and currency arrangements would be finalised between Israel and the PSA, with considerable coordination remaining necessary so long as trade and labour flows are open to both parties.

The PLO, whose structures would merge into Palestine/Jordan's diplomatic missions, would continue to assist Palestinians remaining in the diaspora, handle the payment of compensation funds to those refugees, and manage trade and labour because. Similarly, Jews who lost property in Arab states would receive compensation, complementing the restitution of Palestinian property losses.

In sum, the dynamics of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process in the summer of 1992 suggest new and unanticipated opportunities for improving the relations between the two peoples, and it is with that goal in mind that the recommendations in this report are offered.

Africa's slave reparations campaign meets black resistance

By Gill Tudor
Reporter

GOREE ISLAND, SENEGAL — The American civil rights leader held the chains aloft, gripped the dead weight of an iron ball in his hands and demanded redress for Africa for the crimes of slavery.

One-time presidential hopeful Jesse Jackson has thrown his weight behind a swelling campaign to win western reparations for Africa, saying three centuries of slave trading stripped it of its ablest workers and hobbled its development.

"For the pillage and rape of Africa there must be some form of reparation," Mr. Jackson told reporters recently on Goree Island, the beautiful but tragic slave port off Africa's West Coast which has become a place of pilgrimage for the black diaspora. The European and American continents "have a moral obligation to contribute to reparations for the damage caused,"

But critics say the Nigerian-

born idea, which won formal approval at the recent annual Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit in Senegal, is impractical and ill-conceived.

"The problem of slavery is more complicated than they make out," said Senegalese historian and journalist Jerome Carlos — himself descended from slaves. "In any case, the time for blaming others is over. Africa must help itself."

Nigerian newspaper magnate M.K.O. Abiola began the campaign two years ago, based on international law. He cites precedents like German reparations to Israel for Hitler's crimes against the Jews, or Iraqi compensation for Kuwait after the Gulf war.

The theme was given a high profile at the OAU summit, where an eminent persons' group to study the idea was inaugurated during the opening ceremony.

Mr. Jackson wants a comprehensive plan of aid, trade, long-term loans and debt forgiveness like the West is offering former communist countries such as Po-

land and Russia.

Just as the U.S. Marshall Plan helped rebuild shattered Europe after World War II, Mr. Jackson says well-placed aid could create African markets which would benefit the West.

OAU Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim said reparations would be a dignified way to write off Africa's crippling external debt of \$275 billion.

"This is not simply an issue of money," he told reporters at the summit. "We are talking in terms of moral responsibility."

But many Africans, and black people elsewhere, dismiss the plan as a pipe dream or a cynical political exercise to win votes or cash.

Prime objections focus on the role of Arabs and Africans themselves in the slave trade.

Figures are controversial and hard to pin down. But most historians reckon about 13 million Africans were sold into Arab slavery from the seventh century on, against 15 to 20 million shipped across the Atlantic from the



Jesse Jackson

16th to 19th centuries.

Speakers at the OAU summit, held in a sumptuous \$140-million conference centre paid for by Saudi King Fahd, tended to deflect the Arab issue.

"The focus of this is the trans-

Atlantic route," said Mr. Salim, a Tanzanian from the eastern slave-trade island of Zanzibar. He made no further comment.

The African role raises even more bitter argument. Entire African kingdoms like Benin's Abomey Empire based their wealth on the slave trade, making war on their neighbours to grab captives for the western market.

"Even today in countries like Ghana and Nigeria there are people who look down on black Americans as slaves," said one black American woman who knows West Africa well.

Human rights groups like Amnesty International say slavery still thrives in at least one African country, Mauritania, although the government has officially outlawed it three times.

"There will always be collaborators," Mr. Abiola said. "That does not mean that justice should not be done."

Mr. Jackson said the African role should be put in perspective. "Those who owned the ships, who did the bargaining, who pro-

cessed slavery, who built European and North American civilisations on the slave trade, war of course not Africans."

Critics raise other objections. "Should reparations not be paid to descendants of slaves in America's ghettos or the West Indian slums, rather than those who stayed in Africa? And who will pay up? Western taxpayers — some of whom are black?"

Most supporters agree compensation should extend to the black diaspora, although there are few concrete ideas of how it could work. "Every African was enslaved," said Mr. Abiola. "Some were enslaved outside Africa, some in Africa by colonialism."

Mr. Carlos fears the campaign, far from benefiting black people, may simply alienate the West and stir up bitter historical divisions between blacks.

"There has been a sort of mythical unity among all blacks until now," he said. "I'm afraid initiatives like this will divide us. It opens wounds."

لجنة التأسيس

Washington seen confident of progress

(Continued from page 1)

venue or any problems in holding the talks in Rome. "In any case we see no reason why the talks should be moved from Rome," the source was quoted as saying. However, Israel Radio said Saturday that Washington was most likely to be the venue if only since Mr. Baker, "who wants to be close to the renewal of the process when he... moves from the State Department to the White House to run President (George) Bush's campaign."

Senior Baker aide Dennis Ross was in Israel Friday to brief Israeli leaders on the outcome of the secretary's talks in Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Saudi Arabia. Israel has not made any official comment on the substance of the briefing.

Four rounds of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks were held in Washington before a decision was made upon American insistence to move the venue to Europe, and Rome emerged as a compromise among the parties involved.

"Rome was not the first or second choice of any of the delegations, but it was one of the few sites that everyone could at least agree on," said one source close to the Jordanian negotiation team.

"There were many delegates who did not want to shift the venue from Washington in the first place," said the source. "In Washington they felt closer to the co-sponsors (of the Middle East peace process) ... but had little choice when the Americans insisted that the venue be moved."

The American reasoning was apparently that the snail-paced progress of the talks and a continued foot-dragging by Israel could have been detrimental to the political interests of President Bush, who is seeking reelection in November.

Israel's insistence that the talks be moved closer to the Middle East was also highly influential in the American decision to ask the delegates to leave Washington.

"But now that the situation has changed" with the relatively moderate Labour Party replacing the hardline Likud as the leading component in the Israeli government, "Washington obviously feels that chances are far better for progress," said the source. By extension, it also means that the door is open for the Bush campaign to hope for a political

boost.

"If the talks were to continue in Washington with no tangible progress in the run-up to the elections, then it would have been not only an embarrassment for the White House but also a political setback, and hence the apparent anxiety to move the negotiations away," said the source. "Now, against the declared positions of the new Israeli government and its moves, it seems that the U.S. appears confident that the situation could be turned around. Success in the peace process would definitely help President Bush's reelection campaign."

However, Mr. Baker, tipped to take over as Mr. Bush's campaign manager upon his return to Washington this week, asserted in Amman on Tuesday that the U.S. was "not reopening" the subject but was ready to host the talks if the parties involved desired so.

"If the parties decided they wanted to come to Washington, we'd be pleased to host it, co-host it with the Russians, in Washington," Mr. Baker told a press conference. "The reason it was moved was because all parties could not agree to stay in Washington. They may still not be able to agree to stay in Washington. I don't know."

Regardless of the venue, hopes are high in the region that the talks could tackle substantive issues from the next round. Arab arguments that Israel was stalling throughout the process which began in Madrid in October have been vindicated by an admission by Yitzhak Shamir, the former Israeli prime minister, that he was prepared to prolong the process for the next 10 years without reaching any agreement while consolidating Israel's grip on the occupied territories through massive settlement.

The first possible breakthrough in the talks could be an Israeli-Palestinian agreement on "autonomy" or "self-rule" arrangements in the occupied territories.

"It is up to the Palestinians to decide and finalise (with the Israelis)," said the Jordanian official. "They should decide what modalities they want and what mechanisms they would like to have." But that does not mean that negotiations on the other three tracks — Israeli-Jordanian, Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese — would take a back-stage, the official said.

"What we are pursuing is comprehensive agreement on all aspects and this approach would be maintained throughout," the official said.

The source close to the Jordanian negotiating team said: "I believe that agreement could be reached on most of the salient points in the conflict by November" — in time for the Democratic camp to reap the political benefits in the form of help in securing a second term for President Bush.

Panel recommends trial of ex-ministers

(Continued from page 1)

another Indian company has made an offer "at considerably lower prices" which would have saved the treasury around JD7 million.

The decision by the panel, which was formed in January 1991, had created controversy among deputies who questioned the timing of the decision and the political and personal motives behind the decision.

In commenting on the panel's recommendation, some deputies indicated that while the process followed by the group was "perfectly legal" there were some unanswered questions over the "political motive" behind the adoption and timing of the recommendation. A number of deputies some even doubted whether there was enough evidence to warrant the recommendation in the first place.

"One this latter point, I can tell you that the last Lower House which was dissolved in 1988 had discussed the issue of the Jafr highway and the subject was closed," said one deputy. "Why, I must ask, the panel now decided to bring out the subject again?"

A member of the committee confirmed that the prime minister in question in this case was questioned over this issue during the mandate of the previous Parliament, "but our decision now is not personal or political," the committee member said. "We went by our mandate to investigate and recommend and that is what we did."

Critics of the decision, however, point out that the findings of probes into corruption cases were referred to the House in July 1990 by the prosecutor-general's office and say they cannot believe that it took two years to reach a recommendation on only one of these cases.

However, committee members responded by saying that corruption cases were initially referred to the Financial Committee, which was the party concerned until the Investigations Committee was formed in January 1991. Delays after that were caused by the resignation of the head of the panel, Laith Shbeilat, over what he described as the "lack of seriousness in addressing requests made by the panel to the government over alleged cases of corruption." The committee remained inactive until two weeks ago.

"We were called to a meeting by the speaker of the House who asked to continue our meetings and make recommendations on this case and we did so," a member of the committee said.

"This week's decision by the House's Investigations Committee carries clear political implications," said one deputy who asked for anonymity, "especially since it comes only one year away from another round of elections where members who intend to

return will be questioned over their performance during their four-year term."

Opponents say most of the candidates who ran for the 1989 national elections pledged to weed out corruption in Jordan and investigate earlier such cases and bring the guilty to justice.

According to lawyers and official sources contacted by the Jordan Times, the committee's action was in line with the proper legal procedure in such cases. The delay in taking action, they say, was due to procedural reasons and not laxness on the part of the Investigations Committee.

According to the sources, the whole process of investigating corruption cases hit snags when many of the former officials questioned by a special committee appointed by the attorney general, as witnesses or suspects, raised a constitutional point about the legal reference for being tried by judicial courts rather than by Parliament.

"The Higher Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution debated this question and decided that former and current officials can only be investigated and accused by Parliament and then tried by the Higher Council and not a judicial court," one of the official sources explained. The cases, which, until this time were shelved pending a final decision were then turned back to the House for further action and investigation. "And this is how this case was born," the source said.

Lawyers said they believed that a "more strict" approach should have been applied by members of the House panel before turning this case for a House vote. "I believe that there has to be a solid base for the accusation regardless of my political beliefs and regardless of who is involved," said a prominent lawyer close to the details of the case and the panel's investigation. "These kinds of cases harm peoples' reputations," he said. "This case has a political tone to it although it is perfectly sound legally."

However, a member of the committee said that the group's decision "was not influenced by any political or personal considerations." He said that every member had ample opportunity to express their opinion according to the evidence they had in front of them. "The committee acted by what it believed was its duty."

To the deputies who have doubts over the committee members' decision, the group member said: "They will have their turn to express their opinion. If they don't like it they can vote against indictment."

Arabs endorse continued talks

(Continued from page 1)

PLO representative Fawuk Kaddoumi to stress Arab demands for PLO participation in the talks despite an official Israeli ban on contacts with the PLO.

The ministers' statement reiterated the Arab stand that peace should come "through implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of returning all occupied Arab lands, including Jerusalem in exchange for peace."

Mr. Sharaa said the ministers also found Mr. Rabin's government had not expressed any commitment to withdrawing from South Lebanon.

He said the ministers called for the full participation by the United Nations and the European Community in the negotiations, to which Mr. Shamir had objected at the start of the talks in Madrid last October.

The two groups attended the Madrid talks as observers. In addition to Mr. Sharaa and Mr. Qaddoumi, the Damascus meeting was attended by foreign ministers Faris Bouez of Lebanon, Amr Musa of Egypt and Kamel Abu Jaber of Jordan.

The statement said the ministers' next round of coordination of talks will be held in Lebanon, but did not say when.

Participants said alterations to tone down the statement were included at the Egyptian foreign minister's urging.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the sources said decisions included a section on Jewish settlements.

The sources said Mr. Musa suggested that the Arabs give Israel a chance to explain its position in the next round of talks.

Following are extracts from the final communiqué issued Saturday:

"The ministers noted that the new Israeli government has not expressed until now, despite the relative change of tone and style, its commitment to establish a just, comprehensive and permanent peace in the region through the implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of returning all the occupied Arab lands including Jerusalem in exchange for peace. Neither has it expressed its readiness to withdraw fully from Lebanese occupied territories in compliance with Security Council Resolution 425."

The ministers reiterated the following bases and elements on which the peace process is based:

1 — "Commitment to comprehensive peace in the region and implementation of U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 fully on all Palestinian, Syrian and Jordanian fronts and on the basis of the non-authorisation of acquiring land by force and Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Lebanese territories and the full and unconditional implementation of U.N. Resolution 425."

2 — Ensuring and respecting the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and establishment of its independent state on its soil ... seeking to remove obstacles blocking completion of the Palestinian representation (at the peace talks) to cover citizens of Jerusalem and the diaspora and the official participation of the PLO in the peace process.

3 — All types of settlements in any part of the occupied Arab territories in the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan are illegal...

4 — The solution should be comprehensive and should cover all fronts in accordance with the peace initiative and pledges made by the conference's co-sponsors...

5 — Putting an end to Israel's repressive measures in the occu-

ried Arab territories and its repeated aggressions against Lebanese towns and villages which constitute a serious violation of U.N. Charter and international law...

"The ministers stress the importance of full participation by the United Nations in the peace process as an organisation representing international legitimacy and a body whose resolutions constitute the basis for the peace process."

"The participants took note of what was announced by the new Israeli government of its intention to distance itself from the policy of prolongation and obstruction which was adopted by the previous government. They wait to see a practical proof of this in the sixth round ... in this respect the Arab parties express their readiness to resume bilateral talks as soon as possible ...

to reach a comprehensive, just and permanent solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict."

"The participants felt the Arab side had clearly expressed its readiness to reach comprehensive peace if the Israeli government announced its commitment to the peace process ... especially its readiness to withdraw from all occupied Arab territories in compliance with Security Council resolutions and to recognise Palestinian self-determination ... halting all settlement activities in occupied Arab lands including Jerusalem and stopping violation of human rights there..."

"While affirming their countries' commitment to the (nuclear) Non-Proliferation Treaty (the ministers) urge Israel to join the treaty and put its nuclear facilities and installations under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency..."



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VID

THE DIRECT WAY

Jordan invited to NAM summit

(Continued from page 1)

trial envoy.

Indonesian Minister of Trade Arifin Siregar was received at the Royal Court by King Hussein. In talks with the Indonesian envoy, the King underlined Jordan's keenness on promoting cooperation and friendship between Jordan and Indonesia and paid tribute to Indonesia for its role in the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and in the Non-Aligned Movement.

The King asked that his greetings and best wishes be conveyed to President Suharto and the Indonesian people.

The audience was attended by Royal Court Chief Khaled Karaki, Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour and Indonesia's Ambassador to Jordan Mohammad Hasan Adamy.

Dr. Ensour and Mr. Siregar earlier held a formal meeting at the Ministry of Industry and Trade to discuss economic and trade relations between Jordan and Indonesia.

Dr. Ensour was quoted by the Jordan News Agency Petra, as underlining the importance of launching joint investment projects to further boost bilateral ties.

Jordanian products were of high quality and capable of competing with foreign products in Indonesian markets, Dr. Ensour said, noting that Indonesia imports half of its needs of phosphate from Jordan.

Official sources here said that in 1980 Jordan exported to Indonesia goods worth \$30 million, including fertilisers, and imported plywood, garments and palm oil worth \$10 million.

Mr. Siregar said that his country was keen to develop its trade and economic ties with Jordan and was interested in joint investments.

Mr. Siregar also met Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz to discuss economic and trade relations. The planning minister briefed Mr. Siregar on the Kingdom's economic restructuring programme.

The Indonesian minister, who was leaving later for Syria and Lebanon with messages of invitation for the non-aligned summit, also met with Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) Director General Thabet Al Taher. According to JPMC sources Indonesia imported up to 600,000 tonnes of phosphate annually over the past three years and recently signed contracts to buy 650,000 tonnes of Jordanian phosphate during 1992.

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Official sources here said that in 1980 Jordan exported to Indonesia goods worth \$30 million, including fertilisers, and imported plywood, garments and palm oil worth \$10 million.

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More Japanese break tradition, change jobs

TOKYO (R) — Record numbers of Japanese are switching jobs, bending the country's tradition of staying in the same job for life, a government spokesman said Friday.

In the year to February, 2.77 million Japanese changed jobs. While these workers accounted for only 4.4 per cent of the labour force, the figure was the highest since such surveys began in 1984.

"It used to be that Japanese worked at the same place until they retired," an agency official said. "But this has changed over the past few years, albeit at a slow pace."

The reason for the change included a labour shortage and a general loosening of traditions, he said.

Workers with experience in numerous companies have often been looked down on for lacking seriousness and a cooperative spirit, important qualities in Japan.

There are also financial motives for staying with one firm, with promotion and pay rises based on seniority. Another factor is security, since full-time workers in Japan are rarely dismissed before reaching the legal retirement age.

The results of the latest government survey show that most workers who decided to change jobs did so voluntarily rather than as a result of being fired or of their company going bankrupt.

The main reason was changing jobs was to get better working conditions.

A business executive group recently urged that Japan, with its chronic labour shortage, should welcome and train unskilled foreign workers to help cut the number of foreigners living illegally.

Private companies should establish training schemes lasting up to three years for workers from overseas, including those without job expertise, according to the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Boyukai).

The proposal was designed to give migrant workers a chance to learn skills which could eventually be used back home, an association spokesman said.

"We are hoping that the skills they learn from the programme could contribute to the economic development of their countries," he added.

The proposal was not directly aimed at reducing the number of illegal foreign workers already here, who would not be eligible for training, or at solving the labour shortage, he said.

"But the programme, if carried out, would indirectly help reduce the number of illegal foreign workers (by encouraging them to leave and reapply for visas) as well as filling in the gap in the labour market," he said.

Currently, skilled foreigners are allowed to work in Japan but those without skills are banned. Despite this, more than 100,000 foreigners — most from Asia — are believed to be working in Japan illegally.

The association shares the government's view that Tokyo should maintain its ban on unskilled foreign workers.

The association also urged the Japanese government to set up "Japan centres" abroad to help foreigners prepare to work here.

Japan arrested a record 32,908 foreigners in 1991 for working illegally and has deported most of them.

South Koreans topped the list with 9,782, followed by 7,700 Iranians, 4,855 Malaysians and 3,249 Thais, the Justice Ministry said in a report.

More than 23,000 foreign workers were arrested in 1990.

"We believe this is just the tip of the iceberg because a much larger number of foreigners are staying illegally," a ministry official said.

The ministry said there were a record 216,399 illegal immigrants as of Nov. 1, 1991, up 35 per cent from six months before.

This number was calculated by examining records of those entering and leaving Japan, the official said, adding that the ministry does not know where the remainder are.

Of this figure, 32,751 were Thais, 30,976 South Koreans, 29,620 Philippines and 25,379 Malaysians, it said.



Alan Greenspan

Greenspan rejects idea of lower dollar

WASHINGTON (R) — Federal Reserve (Fed) Chairman Alan Greenspan has rejected the notion of a lower dollar to further boost the competitiveness of U.S. goods on world markets.

"I see no net benefit to the U.S. economy from a further depreciation of the dollar," he told a House of Representatives banking subcommittee.

What little strength the U.S. economy has exhibited in recent months has come from exports and some economists have advocated a lower dollar to increase the competitiveness of U.S. goods abroad.

The U.S. currency fell close to record low levels against the German mark last Monday but then bounced back sharply after the Fed and other central banks stepped into the market to buy dollars.

Mr. Greenspan also said long-term U.S. interest rates that govern borrowing for everything from home mortgages to corporate bonds could fall significantly, but that will only happen when investors are convinced that inflation has been conquered.

"Long-term rates have a good long way to go down if inflation could be purged from the system," the Fed chairman said.

Mr. Greenspan has openly acknowledged that he has been puzzled by the failure of long-term interest rates to fall in line with the short-term ones which the Fed controls.

On July 2 the Fed cut its key discount rate to three per cent, a 29-year low, but long-term rates remain well above that level.

Home mortgage rates, for example, stand over eight per cent, although they have declined somewhat recently.

Japan to cut discount rate

TOKYO (R) — The Bank of Japan (BOJ) has decided to cut the official discount rate to 3.25 per cent from 3.75 per cent early next week, a senior Japanese government source said Saturday.

The source, who is close to the central bank, told Reuters the central bank would hold a special policy board meeting Monday to make the formal decision on the rate cut.

The cut should reduce other interest rates, making credit more readily available to consumers and corporations and helping the sluggish Japanese economy. The government said Friday after a special cabinet meeting that it would adopt another economic package featuring a supplementary budget to boost the economy.

Kyodo News Agency quoted analysts as saying the BOJ move was also aimed at supporting the declining share market, which Friday hit its lowest level since April 1986.

The BOJ cut the discount rate four times from July last year through April.

Jordanians, Egyptians want better compensation deal from BCCI liquidators

AMMAN (R) — A representative for depositors with the failed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) said Friday he saw enough support for a new compensation deal to force changes in a plan held up in court this week.

Adil Elias, a member of the British BCCI creditor committee, said after meeting depositors in Cairo and Amman that creditors strongly back efforts to revise a scheme approved by majority shareholders which was held up in a Luxembourg court this week.

The court ruled Monday that creditors of BCCI, which collapsed after allegations of massive fraud, must be consulted over the compensation plan worked out over seven months of negotiations between majority shareholders Abu Dhabi and li-

quidator Touche Ross. The plan would give creditors between 30 and 40 per cent of lost deposits from liquidation proceeds. It had previously been approved by courts in England and the Cayman Islands.

"Not a single depositor has come forward to say yes to this agreement, not even me," Mr. Elias, also head of the BCCI Depositors' Protection Association, told Reuters after information meetings in Jordan and Egypt.

"There is tremendous support for a better deal," he said, adding that other association members were seeing depositors around the world and major creditors would coordinate their actions in the next few weeks.

The Luxembourg judge has ordered that all known unsecured

creditors should be consulted by the bank's liquidators between now and Oct. 1 before a new hearing on Oct. 7.

Financial sources said majority opposition to the plan could threaten the deal.

Mr. Elias said 50 depositors in Jordan, about one-third of the total, who hold about \$100 million in BCCI deposits attended an information meeting Friday and gave him power of attorney to reject the current deal.

He said he hopes to raise compensation to 75 per cent, payable immediately.

Under the current plan Abu Dhabi would inject \$1.7 billion to help pay back 30 to 40 per cent of creditors' losses in return for depositors giving up legal claims against the emirate.

Turkish stocks lose shine for U.S., European investors

ISTANBUL (R) — Foreign investors once eager to taste the delights of the Istanbul Stock Exchange are now thinking twice before being tempted by Turkish equities.

Foreign capital into Istanbul's market comes mainly from Britain, the United States, France and Switzerland.

"Three years ago Turkey was the flavour of the day. It is not the case any more," said a fund manager at the Paris-based Banque Indosuez, recalling the heady days of 1989 when Istanbul was the world's top performer in emerging markets.

This year it was sunk to bottom of the list as Turkey struggles to lift its inflation-ridden economy out of recession.

The market, capitalised at \$11.5 billion with an average daily turnover of 270 billion lira (\$38.5 million), lost 39 per cent in dollar terms in the year to June, according to the emerging markets price index of the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

Portfolio managers of emerging markets are seeking a sus-

But buyers have been back in the last few weeks, sending the index up 23 per cent since May. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio firmed to 11.5 in July after falling to 8.7 in May from 15.8 last December and the IFC rated Turkey as June's top performer.

The lira's steadiness against the dollar — almost unchanged since June after a 38 per cent loss in the first five months — gave the index a fillip. Seasonally lower inflation, tax and capital markets reforms, and good interim company results also helped.

Fund managers abroad, however, want signs of long-term economic recovery before committing themselves further.

"The evidence of continuing economic progress will be very important," said Jonathan Harrison at London-based Ivory Sime, which manages investments in Turkey worth £20 million (\$38.2 million). These include the Turkey Trust listed on the London Stock Exchange.

Portfolio managers of emerging markets are seeking a sus-

tained drop in inflation, a stable currency and a speedy sell-off of debt-laden state enterprises.

"Nobody is looking for a miracle, but they want to see a downward trend in interest rates," said Donna Pullini, international sales manager at Glnal Brokerage House.

Deposit interest rates are still higher than 75 per cent despite a drop in inflation to 65.8 per cent in June from 71.1 at end-1991.

In May the government enacted a capital markets law to ban insider trading, permit short-selling and allow new instruments. A tax law in June gave relief to pension funds and insurance firms keeping at least a quarter of their portfolios in stocks.

But analysts say more is needed to promote foreign capital in a market still driven by short-term speculation.

"What we really want to see is a clear policy to promote a local investment base in the stock market," said the fund manager at Banque Indosuez.

Paris Club halves Zambia's debt

PARIS (R) — The Paris Club of government creditors has agreed to cut in half Zambia's debts to foreign states, the French finance ministry said Friday.

The ministry, which acts as secretary to the club, said the creditor nations took note of Zambia's poverty and heavy debt burden at a meeting with Zambian officials Thursday and wanted to help its economic recovery.

The terms are similar to those already granted to a handful of other very poor nations and commonly referred to as "Trinidad terms."

In 1990 Zambia had a total foreign debt of \$7.22 billion, of which \$2.82 billion was long-term debt owed to foreign governments, according to World Bank figures.

A French finance ministry official told Reuters the agreement covers just under \$1 billion of debt.

The creditor governments will have the choice of:

— Writing off half of Zambia's debt service commitments due under non-concessional loans and rescheduling the rest over 23 years with a six-year grace period

— Rescheduling all their debts over 23 years at concessional rates so as to reduce the net

present value of payments by 50 per cent, or

— Rescheduling all the debt at market rates over 25 years with a 16-year grace period.

The French ministry said the Paris Club welcomed the fact Zambia was undertaking an economic restructuring programme supported by the International Monetary Fund.

Zambian President Frederick Chiluba, a former trade union leader, came to power in elections last October on a platform of market economics and political pluralism. He replaced the long-ruling Kenneth Kaunda.

The ministry said Zambia's concessional, overseas development assistance (ODA), debt will be rescheduled over a "very long" period.

Creditors may also, if they choose, swap some of their debt claims for equity or engage in debt-for-nature, debt-for-aid or other local currency swaps.

The club agreed that, under certain conditions, they will meet again in three years to consider reducing Zambia's stock of debt.

Earlier, Britain, the former colonial power in Zambia, said it was giving the drought-hit country a further £15 million (\$28.5 million) to help with balance of payments problems.

A senior Zambian official said this month that Zambia's economy is expected to contract nine per cent in 1992 instead of growing two per cent as once hoped.

"Recent estimates indicate that the Zambian economy will not be growing by two per cent as we had hoped. Instead, on account of the drought, we shall be expecting a decline in economic growth by nine per cent," said Dean Mung'omba, deputy minister in the president's economic office.

Mr. Mung'omba described Zambia's balance of payments situation in 1992 as "mixed" adding that copper exports had not done well while non-traditional exports had started to move up.

Copper production by the giant Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines (ZCCM), the country's major foreign exchange earner, dropped to 386,763 tonnes for the year ended March 31, from 421,590 tonnes the previous year.

The flow of external aid had improved and Zambia was expected to meet its 1992 balance of payment support target of \$700 million, the deputy minister said.

Mr. Mung'omba said inflation was still high — over 400 per cent annually at the end of 1991 — but dropping.

Financial Markets

Jordan Times in cooperation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

French Franc	5.0015	5.0770
Japanese Yen	126.65	128.10
European Currency Unit	1.3695	1.3555

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	1 MONTH	3 MONTH	6 MONTH	12 MONTH
U.S. Dollar	3.37	3.31	3.44	3.73
U.S. Dollar	10.12	10.25	10.25	10.25
Deutsche Mark	9.68	9.75	9.75	9.88
Swiss Franc	6.37	6.37	6.37	6.25
French Franc	10.06	10.34	10.18	10.18
Japanese Yen	4.46	4.28	4.09	4.03
European Currency Unit	10.75	10.81	10.81	10.68

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	1 MONTH	3 MONTH	6 MONTH	12 MONTH
U.S. Dollar	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67
U.S. Dollar	1.2697	1.2697	1.2697	1.2697
Deutsche Mark	0.4455	0.4455	0.4455	0.4455
Swiss Franc	0.5030	0.5030	0.5030	0.5030
French Franc	0.2319	0.2319	0.2319	0.2319
Japanese Yen	0.5251	0.5251	0.5251	0.5251
European Currency Unit	0.3950	0.3950	0.3950	0.3950
Swedish Krona	0.1228	0.1228	0.1228	0.1228
Italian Lira	0.0585	0.0585	0.0585	0.0585
Belgian Franc	0.02165	0.02165	0.02165	0.02165

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	1 MONTH	3 MONTH	6 MONTH	12 MONTH
U.S. Dollar	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67
U.S. Dollar	1.2697	1.2697	1.2697	1.2697
Deutsche Mark	0.4455	0.4455	0.4455	0.4455
Swiss Franc	0.5030	0.5030	0.5030	0.5030
French Franc	0.2319	0.2319	0.2319	0.2319
Japanese Yen	0.5251	0.5251	0.5251	0.5251
European Currency Unit	0.3950	0.3950	0.3950	0.3950
Swedish Krona	0.1228	0.1228	0.1228	0.1228
Italian Lira	0.0585	0.0585	0.0585	0.0585
Belgian Franc	0.02165	0.02165	0.02165	0.02165

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	1 MONTH	3 MONTH	6 MONTH	12 MONTH
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Swiss Franc	0.5030	0.5030	0.5030	0.5030
French Franc	0.2319	0.2319	0.2319	0.2319
Japanese Yen	0.5251	0.5251	0.5251	0.5251
European Currency Unit	0.3950	0.3950	0.3950	0.3950
Swedish Krona	0.1228	0.1228	0.1228	0.1228
Italian Lira	0.0585	0.0585	0.0585	0.0585
Belgian Franc	0.02165	0.02165	0.02165	0.02165

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	1 MONTH	3 MONTH	6 MONTH	12 MONTH
U.S. Dollar	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67
U.S. Dollar	1.2697	1.2697	1.2697	1.2697
Deutsche Mark	0.4455	0.4455	0.4455	0.4455
Swiss Franc	0.5030	0.5030	0.5030	0.5030
French Franc	0.2319	0.2319	0.2319	0.2319
Japanese Yen	0.5251	0.5251	0.5251	0.5251
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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Turkish Lira	0.3343	0.03973
Saudi Riyal	0.1785	0.1210
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2300	2.3400

Britain to call international conference on Yugoslavia

LONDON (Agencies) — Britain announced Saturday it was calling an international conference on Yugoslavia in the second half of August to try to bring peace to the country.

The Foreign Office said in a statement the conference would bring together "the principal governments and parties concerned, the United Nations and other organisations to try to promote a peaceful settlement in Yugoslavia."

Britain holds the rotating presidency of the European Community, which has sought in vain to end the fighting.

The announcement followed talks between Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Ghali in New York earlier this week.

It said the conference would be chaired jointly by Mr. Hurd and former British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington, who has headed EC efforts to mediate in the various Yugoslav conflicts.

A Foreign Office official said the conference, to be opened by Prime Minister John Major, would probably be held in London.

Britain resisted earlier moves by some countries for an interna-

tional conference, but the official said London had agreed it would broaden the peace effort at an appropriate time.

"We believe that time has now come," he said.

The Foreign Office acknowledged the need for "the closest consultation between the European Community, the CSCE (Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe) and the United Nations" in the efforts to bring about peace.

It said Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg would be visiting EC capitals, the U.N. and "the former Yugoslavia" to prepare for the conference.

Lord Carrington is trying to arrange a further meeting with the leaders of the three warring factions in Bosnia-Herzegovina in London Monday to discuss future constitutional arrangements for the republic, which has declared its independence.

His office said Friday "positive replies" had been received from Radovan Karadzic, political leader of Bosnia's Serbs, and Croat leader Mate Boban.

But it said Bosnia-Herzegovina's Muslim president, Alija Izetbegovic, had not yet replied to a letter sent on Lord Carrington's behalf Thursday to the three

leaders.

"The talks will only go ahead if all three agree to come," a spokesman said.

Meanwhile, a U.N. humanitarian convoy limped into Sarajevo Saturday, its attempts to reach embattled Gorazde shattered by land mines and fighting nearby. One member of the mission declared: "I am glad to be alive."

U.N. spokesman Mik Magnusson, announcing the return of the vehicles said the failed effort "illustrates the difficulty of ... humanitarian aid prospects" in war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In Sarajevo, mortar rounds exploded in front of the presidency building and in the old town to the east, briefly shattering the relative calm after overnight fighting. One person was killed and five were wounded in the old town attack. Five people were wounded, two of them seriously, in front of the presidency.

The convoy was dispatched Thursday. It came within 12 kilometres of Gorazde but decided to abort the effort to reach the town, surrounded by Serb forces, after it set off two mines and small-arms fire erupted nearby.

"I am glad to be alive" said Fabrizio Hochschild, the head of

operations for Sarajevo's U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees team. "It was very very dangerous, and I'm glad we got out."

Mr. Hochschild told reporters the convoy was being escorted through no-man's land by a Serb armoured personnel carrier and had stopped to collect the bodies of three Serb fighters when a truck and a U.N. armoured escort vehicle set off two mines. Shooting suddenly broke out, he related, adding: "At the time, I was sure we were under attack. In retrospect, I'm not sure."

Though the trucks were carrying some relief aid, the mission also was an attempt to show that the siege of Gorazde, reportedly in its 83rd day Saturday, could be broken.

It was not certain when another attempt would be mounted to reach the town 50 kilometres to the east of the Bosnian capital, where 70,000 residents and refugees are increasingly lacking food and other basics.

Fierce artillery, mortar and infantry attacks were waged in Sarajevo Friday as Bosnian athletes left for the Barcelona Olympics, where they will compete without a flag. Artillery battles continued overnight in the north of the city.

De Klerk calls for urgent resumption of talks

JOHANNESBURG (R) — President F.W. de Klerk said Saturday South Africa urgently needed to elect a transitional government but stalled talks on multi-racial rule would have to resume first.

De Klerk said the government was ready to explore "possible initiatives" in discussions with other parties and take the "necessary steps" to resolve the impasse through negotiations. He did not elaborate.

"The need to have an election for a transitional government of national unity and for the establishment of a constitution-making body is becoming more urgent by the day. However, such a process can only follow on the resumption of negotiations," he said in a statement.

"The government is ready, able and willing to move forward immediately. Everyday lost through the breakdown in negotiations therefore delays the process of moving forward to the goal of a fully democratic South Africa which all South Africans are yearning for," he added.

The statement followed a two-day cabinet meeting dedicated to the country's worst political crisis since Mr. De Klerk began dismantling apartheid in February 1990.

Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) quit 19-party negotiations on a multi-racial constitution after the Boipatong massacre last month in which at least 43 blacks died.

Mr. Mandela accused the white government of clinging to power and condoning township violence which has killed 6,000 blacks over two years.

Mr. De Klerk's offers for a face-to-face meeting have been rejected by the ANC, which is stepping up a mass action campaign to press for majority rule. A general strike is planned for Aug. 3 and 4.

U.N. envoy Cyrus Vance has been visiting since Tuesday with a Security Council mandate to canvass political leaders on how to break the deadlock.

Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu warned Friday that a planned strike by the ANC could worsen the divisions in South Africa's volatile political climate.

Archbishop Tutu, who can the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize for anti-apartheid efforts, also condemned continuing attacks on South African policemen.

Rome sends army to fight the mafia in Sicily

ROME (R) — Galvanised by the killing of a top anti-mafia judge, the Italian government decided Saturday to send 7,000 troops to Sicily in the biggest use of the armed forces against organised crime on the island in 40 years.

Details of the decision, announced by Interior Minister Nicola Mancino, were being worked out at a cabinet meeting. It was made a week after top anti-mafia Judge Paolo Borsellino and his five escorts were killed by a massive car bomb in Palermo.

"The (the troops) will back up the state police and the carabinieri," Mr. Mancino told Italian Radio, adding that if they find mafiosi at large they will have the power to arrest them.

It would be the largest deployment of army troops to combat organised crime in Sicily since the late 1940s and early 1950s, when the army was used to hunt down bandits, including the legendary Salvatore Giuliano.

More than 500 troops were sent to Palermo the day after the bombing to help transfer mafia bosses to jails outside Sicily.

Even before the expected move was announced, it ran into criticism.

Tommaso Buscetta, the most famous "repentant" mafioso, whose revelations to magistrates enabled police to jail hundreds of gangsters, said the army would be "useless."

In a television interview from the United States, where he is living under a witness protection programme, Mr. Buscetta said the state should deny civil rights for mafiosi.

"They (civil guarantees) are valid for good citizens but not for hired killers like these. They have

no right to guarantees," said Mr. Buscetta, whose face was shielded from the camera.

Mr. Buscetta noted that Giuliano was himself betrayed and killed in his sleep by his cousin, Gaspare Pisciotto in 1950 and not by troops hunting for him.

Giuliano's body was later laid out on a village pavement to make it appear he had died in a shoot-out with police. Pisciotto died after he drank poisoned coffee in prison in 1954.

The afternoon cabinet meeting was also discussing the possible transfer of Palermo's civil governor, who is appointed by the government. Palermo's police chief was sacked Wednesday.

Mr. Mancino said the government was also reviewing the criteria for police escorts. They would be beefed up for officials in real danger but denied to others.

More than 700 Italian officials have police escorts.

Some police agents have said many of the escorts have become status symbols and that better use could be made of bodyguards.

Mr. Mancino confirmed reports that threats had been made against Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro and other ministers. The threats were believed to have been made by the mafia.

On Friday, hours after Judge Borsellino's funeral, the government used a confidence vote to push a tough anti-mafia package through the Senate.

A new anti-mafia chief prosecutor and other investigators will have wider, streamlined powers to fight gangsters, including the use of undercover "sting" operations, wiretaps and infiltrators.

Assault charges dropped against ballet chief

SARATOGA SPRINGS, New York (R) — Officials have dropped assault charges against Peter Martins, the Danish ballet star and head of the New York City Ballet, at the request of his ballerina wife Darci Kistler, who alleged that he had hit her. Police arrested Mr. Martins, 45, in the couple's rented house in Saratoga Springs, the ballet company's summer home, after they were called by Ms. Kistler, 28, one of the company's principal dancers, authorities said. Mr. Martins was charged with assault and was released without bail after spending five hours in jail, authorities said. Mr. Martins, who eloped with Ms. Kistler seven months ago, joined the New York City Ballet 22 years ago and in 1983 succeeded founder George Balanchine as the company's master.

Kistler, who has been with the company for 10 years and has been a featured dancer in several of Mr. Martins' productions, including *Sleeping Beauty*. She appeared in Saratoga Springs City Court before Judge Lawrence Labelle and requested that the charge, which had been brought by the Saratoga Police Department, based on her complaint, be withdrawn, officials said. "She just indicated that she wanted to resolve the matter privately," said assistant district attorney Jerry Scarnano Jr.

Thieves steal royal box tickets for Jackson concerts

LONDON (AP) — Thieves stole tickets for the prestigious royal box at Michael Jackson's five sellout Lodon concerts, promoter Barry Claymore said. He said 100 tickets for each of the five shows, priced at £22.50 (\$42.75), were taken sometime from his London office. The concerts at Wembley Stadium, which holds 73,000 people, start July 30. Prince Charles will be attending the concert on July 31 but Mr. Claymore said there is no chance anyone with a stolen ticket will be able to join him in the royal box.

Thieves steal priceless artefacts from museum

ODENSE, Denmark (R) — Thieves broke into the Hans Christian Andersen Museum and stole artefacts and manuscripts by the 19th century Danish author worth \$700,000. A museum spokesman said the stolen items included priceless original manuscripts of Andersen's fairy tales including *The Little Mermaid* and *The Emperor's New Clothes*. The thieves also took albums of Andersen drawings, a pressed will flower from the author's visit to Italy in the 1830s and other memorabilia.

Russian pensioners get money but can't spend it

MOSCOW (R) — The good news for elderly residents in the Russian city of Samara, hit by a severe cash crisis, is that they received their pensions this month. The bad news is that they can't spend them. ITAR-TASS News Agency said that pensions were being paid with single 5,000-rouble notes, with as many as three people being forced to share one note. But many shop assistants are refusing to accept the notes, saying they have no change. "There are no many of you and too little cash," the agency quoted assistants as telling hapless pensioners. The 5,000-rouble note — worth about \$35 at current market rates — was introduced this month to help solve liquidity problems sparked by massive price rises since January.

Australian 'surf' image suffers dent

BARCELONA (R) — Australia's fond image as a nation of beach-loving surfers has suffered a dent in Barcelona where its athletes have been barred from bathing in the sea next to the Olympic Village. The team's medical staff issued a directive warning that "the water is considered unsafe for swimming" and advised competitors to stick to dry-land activities. "One of the Canadian girls saw a refrigerator float past, and someone else spotted a table go by," said Australian team spokesman Jim Webster. "There are also a few things in there that have come straight out of the sewers. Our athletes are going to the beach to play volleyball instead, visiting bowling alleys or just sitting around reading. ... Everything except going for a swim."

Czechs to pave way for independence

PRAGUE (R) — The regional Czech government, reacting to Slovakia's declaration of sovereignty last week, is determined to prepare its own independent state. Premier Vaclav Klaus said Wednesday.

"We consider it entirely legitimate to prepare all necessary institutions able to provide for the future independent functioning of the Czech Republic," Mr. Klaus said after his cabinet discussed the first draft of a Czech constitution.

"We have decided to prepare the constitution of an independent Czech Republic," Deputy Premier Jan Kalvoda told a news conference.

Mr. Klaus later left for Bratislava to discuss with his Slovak counterpart Vladimir Meciar moves that could hasten the seemingly inevitable break-up of Czechoslovakia, including what federal institutions should pass to the country's two constituent re-

publics.

"I do not expect any dramatic outcome of today's meeting with Mr. Meciar," Mr. Klaus told reporters.

Mr. Klaus's right-wing Civic Democratic Party (CDS) and Mr. Meciar's nationalist-minded Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS), with widely differing views on Czechoslovakia's future set-up and on economic reforms, won elections in their respective regions almost seven weeks ago.

The polls underlined the deep divisions between the western Czech Republic and Slovakia, where Mr. Meciar was swept to power on a platform of loosening ties with Prague.

Post-election negotiations between Mr. Klaus and Mr. Meciar were deadlocked on how to keep Czechoslovakia together. Since then, the two parts of the country have moved rapidly apart, culminating in Monday's resignation of President Vaclav Havel.

Mr. Klaus said his cabinet was resolved to prepare a Czech constitution quickly but sees no need to match the pace of Slovakia. Mr. Meciar intends to have a Slovak constitution adopted next month.

the country without a head of state.

Last Friday, the Slovak regional parliament overwhelmingly adopted a declaration of sovereignty. "It was a clear signal and we have to act accordingly," Mr. Klaus told Czechoslovak Radio Wednesday.

The sovereignty declaration was the first of a planned series of steps designed to lead to full international status for Slovakia, including adopting a full constitution and electing a Slovak president.

Immediately after the declaration, Mr. Havel, blocked from reelection by Slovak deputies in the Federal Assembly earlier this month, announced his resignation.

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New Indian president calls for harmony

NEW DELHI (R) — Shankar Dayal Sharma took office as India's ninth president Saturday with a strong appeal for support from all religions for the secular ideals the country adopted on independence in 1947.

In an emotional speech after being sworn in at the central hall of parliament, Mr. Sharma echoed the appeal to his predecessor's final address for religious harmony in a country embroiled in a dangerous religious dispute.

Mr. Sharma, in a nationally televised ceremony, quoted texts and famous authors from all India's main religions — Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism, Christianity, Buddhism and Jainism — in support of religious harmony and secularism.

As he spoke, hardline Hindus were working round the clock on a platform marking the start of a temple at the site of a mosque in the holy northern town of Ayodhya.

Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has been holding talks to try to end the worst crisis of his year in office.

The furore has sparked Hindu-Muslim riots over the past three years in which more than 2,000 people died. Nine more have been killed and hundreds injured in fresh outbreaks over the past two weeks.

The hardliners claim that in building the mosque in 1528 the first mogul emperor, Babur, tore down a temple marking the birthplace of Lord Rama, the most popular Hindu god.

Muslims, a minority of 100 million among India's overwhelmingly Hindu 850 million people, say there is no evidence to support the claim.

Mr. Roux, 69, former head of the health division of the Justice Ministry, and Robert Netter, 65, former director of the National Health Laboratory, are charged with "non-assistance to a person in danger."

The families of the infected hemophiliacs consider the charges light.

If convicted, Mr. Garretta and Mr. Allain face four years in prison, while Mr. Roux and Mr. Netter face from three months to five years.

The families say their relatives were infected between March and October 1985, when use of the suspect blood supply was stopped.

A letter written by Mr. Garretta on June 25, 1985, has emerged as a key piece of evidence. It called for the "normal distribution of heated products as long as they are in stock."

That letter was written months after the United States began heating blood to kill the virus, and after Mr. Garretta himself opened negotiations with an Austrian firm on buying treatment equipment.

The victims' families have suggested the government delayed purchasing expensive U.S. technology while waiting for the Pasteur Institute to develop its own system.

The Transfusion Centre has sole control over the distribution of blood products in France.

An investigation by Judge Sabine Foulon determined that the defendants knew the blood could be contaminated, but ignored warnings in internal reports in 1984.

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Japanese urged to get out and vote

TOKYO (R) — Leading Japanese newspapers Saturday urged their readers to vote in Sunday's upper house elections amid widespread fears that the turn-out rate could hit an all-time low.

As Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and opposition party leaders set off on the last day of their 18-day campaigns, the Tokyo Shinbun said making the effort to get out and vote was the only way to promote political reform.

"We cannot request political reform if we go off on trips or become lazy and fail to make use of this precious chance," an editorial said.

Sunday is the first day of the summer holidays for schools and universities when thousands of Japanese begin their annual holiday exodus overseas.

The newspaper said the opening of the Olympic Games in Barcelona, which will be televised live in Japan, could also keep people away from the polls.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Senate committee approves \$4.3b for SDI

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Armed Services Committee cut more than one billion U.S. dollars from the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) funding proposed by President George Bush. Meeting behind closed doors, the panel adopted an overall defence spending plan after wrangling over money for SDI and the B-2 Stealth bomber in the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1. Spending for the Star Wars project was approved at \$4.3 billion. "It was a very contentious debate in the committee," said Sen. J. James Exon, D-Nebraska. Late Thursday, the panel had rejected Mr. Bush's request to complete the B-2 bomber programme at 20 planes, settling on 16 aircraft.

Japanese satellite is put in orbit

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — NASA launched a rocket Friday with a Japanese scientific satellite that will swing by the moon and be flung by lunar gravity nearly a million miles (1.6 million kilometres) into space. The satellite's first encounter with the moon will come in early September. Until then, the craft will be in an elliptical Earth orbit. Scientists will use the satellite to explore the tail of the magnetosphere, a comet-shaped region surrounding Earth and containing the radiation belts. The region extends nearly 3 million miles (4.8 million kilometres) from Earth. The satellite will venture only as far as 871,000 miles (1.3 million kilometres).

N. Koreans end visit to South

SEOUL (R) — North Korean Premier Kim Dal-Hyon left South Korea for home Saturday after a week-long visit which brightened prospects of economic cooperation but did little to remove key political obstacles. His lack of political progress was highlighted at the border village of Panmunjom, where officials from both sides reported the likely postponement of a proposed reunion next month of war-split families. A Southern spokesman said cross-border visits by about 200 people, originally due for late August, were now likely to be postponed until September or October. "The two sides meet again on Aug. 7. But it is unlikely the family reunion will take place as scheduled even if the two sides reach a breakthrough then," he said.

'Spymaster covered up Iran-Contra affair'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top CIA official Clair George covered up his extensive knowledge of the Iran-contra affair, a prosecutor told jurors as his criminal trial opened Friday. But Mr. George's defence lawyer argued it was the defence prosecution witness who "wove the web of deception." Defence lawyer Richard Hilby contended prosecution witness Alan Fiers — not Mr. George — orchestrated a cover-up of the CIA's knowledge of a secret White House-run supply network for the Nicaraguan Contras. Prosecutor Craig Gillen told the seven-woman, five-man jury that Mr. George was inundated with information about the supply network run by White House aide Oliver North. But when called before a congressional committee after a supply plane was shot down on Oct. 5, 1986, Mr. George said he did not know who was involved in the operation. The cover-up was undertaken, Mr. Gillen said, to safeguard a \$100 million appropriation for the Contras which was making its way through Congress at that time.

Moldova defends peace plan

KISHINEV, Moldova (AP) — President Mircea Snegur Friday called on citizens to support a peace plan with Slavic separatists in the breakaway Trans-Dniester region reached earlier in the week. Mr. Snegur made his appeal in a radio address after officials reported that three more people were killed and 13 wounded in clashes between loyalist and separatist forces overnight. Moldovan, Russian and Trans-Dniester officials were scheduled to meet in Kishinev for talks on deploying some 4,000 peacekeepers, most of them Russians, in a buffer zone along the Dniester River. The peace accord, signed Tuesday by Snegur and Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow, grants Trans-Dniester a separate status within Moldova and the possibility of seceding if Moldova "changes its status" — a reference to possible unification with Romania, which the separatists fear.

Poland approves limits on abortion

WARSAW (AP) — Parliament gave initial approval Friday to legislation outlawing abortion and setting jail terms of up to two years for doctors who perform the procedure. The vote 212-106 for the ban was mainly a procedural victory for abortion foes. The draft legislation was sent to an extraordinary committee for further review, but a bill setting less stringent limitations was defeated, as was a call for a national referendum on the divisive issue. To become law, the abortion ban would have to win final approval in the lower house of parliament, be passed by the upper house and then be signed by President Lech Walesa. Surveys have shown most Poles oppose prohibiting abortion, available virtually on demand since 1956. However, the ban has powerful backing from the Roman Catholic Church, which has pushed to outlaw abortion since the Communists were toppled in 1989.

Fujimori cracks down on rebel violence

LIMA (R) — Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori announced tough measures to halt a wave of guerrilla violence which has killed 39 people in Lima in the past week. "Terrorist acts which cause loss of human life will be considered treason," Mr. Fujimori said in a television address to the nation. Anyone caught committing such acts would be summarily tried by a military tribunal, he said. Security forces had already begun carrying out a sweep through areas where Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrillas were known to be active. Mr. Fujimori said, speaking in front of a flag and map of the country, Fujimori also announced tight controls on chemicals used by the Maoist guerrillas in making car bombs.

French actress, Arletty, dies at 94

PARIS (AP) — Arletty, the dark-haired beauty who began as a factory worker and became a legend of French cinema, died at her Paris home, friends reported. She was 94. The cause of death was not announced. From the moment she stood on the bridge over the Canal St. Martin in the 1938 Marcel Carne classic *Hotel Du Nord*, Arletty entered film history and the hearts of movie lovers around the world. Her tatty reply to her violent, wayward lover — "Atmosphere, atmosphere ..." — became one of the most memorable moments of French film. She instantly became a favourite of some of France's leading directors, including Carne and Jacques Prevert.